

HOME NEWS

TUC to urge £2,000m economy boost in talks with Chancellor

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

Senior union leaders are to meet the Chancellor of the Exchequer to press their case for a "major reflationary action" in the Budget to alleviate the continuing high level of unemployment. They will ask for a £2,000m boost to the economy, chiefly through reduced personal taxation.

The TUC General Council meets this morning to endorse its 1977 Economic Review, which urges Mr Healey to expand public spending, even though such a move would conflict with promises to the International Monetary Fund.

After publication of the unemployment figures yesterday, the TUC said they confirmed the need for reflation. Big industrial countries must take steps to get back to a much higher level of activity, which alone could offer a prospect of a return to full employment.

In a reference to the growing rank-and-file pressure on the social contract, the TUC added: "This is essentially the message which is coming to us from the shop floor: preserving jobs and living standards go together. It is vital for us to do both."

The TUC's six representatives on the National Economic Development Council are to meet the Chancellor on Friday to press home the arguments in the review for a cut in income tax of £1,700m in 1977-78, an increase in pensions by £4 a week for married couples and £2.50 for single people, and for more capital to be directed to the National Enterprise Board.

Mr David Bassett, general secretary of the General and Municipal Workers' Union and one of the TUC's NEC members involved in the negotiations with the Chancellor, while welcoming the "small" drop in unemployment figures, said last night: "Budgetary stimulus must, in substantial part, consist of direct expenditure on job-creation and job-saving measures, including construction and capital projects."

Mr Callaghan rules out 'free collective chaos'

By Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent
Westminster

Government determination to forge another pay agreement with the unions was vigorously affirmed again in the Commons yesterday when the Prime Minister told MPs that a return to free collective bargaining this year would be a return to free collective chaos.

"I would not support it," he added. "We must have another pay agreement."

But Mr Callaghan agreed that there should be greater flexibility to overcome the differential anomalies.

Replying to Mr Norman Ashton, one of his most consistent left-wing critics, Mr Callaghan agreed that one of the causes of discontent was the increase in prices. He promised that the Government would take every possible and realistic step to control prices. But he pointed out the limitations of price control when Britain was so dependent on imports.

Mr Ashton had said that large sections of TUC General Council were insisting on a return to free collective bargaining and that price inflation was the biggest impediment to a new phase of the social contract.

From the Tory benches, Mr Peter Tapsell urged the Prime Minister to draw the attention of the TUC to the long-term economic benefits to be won from restraint on wages, public spending and money supply. But he said those advantages were being nullified by the failure to maintain the international value of sterling.

Mr Callaghan replied that sterling had been stable of late. Earlier he had reminded the House that several economic indicators were beginning to turn in a favourable direction. Parliamentary report, page 5

Nuclear safety challenge to Mr Benn

By a Staff Reporter

Mr Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, has been asked why nuclear power installations should have to report minor mishaps to him.

A letter from the staff associations and unions at the Dounreay experimental reactor establishment in north Scotland also complains that recent remarks by the minister about the waste products of the nuclear industry apparently prejudiced issues before the Health and Safety Commission had been able to examine them.

The letter states: "We are required and always have been to report all occurrences to the Health and Safety Executive immediately. The only change in the position is that you now wish to be informed also of certain occurrences of lesser significance."

If nuclear power was to be singled out Mr Benn should state the reasons why.

A report by the energy studies unit at Strathclyde University supports the EEC decision to shelve plans for fast nuclear growth.

Bone-marrow boy ill

Anthony Nolan, the boy, aged five, who has suffered from bone-marrow disease since birth, is being kept in isolation in Canterbury Hospital after an injury to his foot.

Anthony, of Challock, Kent, near Ashford, is subject to sudden heavy haemorrhages and has no resistance to infection.

Court orders LSE sit-in students to leave

By Judith Judd, of The Times
Higher Education Supplement

A High Court judge last night ordered students occupying part of the London School of Economics to leave by noon today. The possession order was granted by Mr Justice Mocatta to the school's director, Professor Ralf Dahrendorf.

The judge said: "There cannot be any justification for committing an act of trespass for the reorganization of a university or college. Two wrongs do not make a right." The director had done his utmost to avoid a head-on collision with the students.

Professor Dahrendorf sought the order because several hundred students have been occupying three floors of the school's administrative block in protest against the Government's decision to increase tuition fees.

He went to court after a meeting with students at which they refused to leave the building unless he agreed to meet their demands for no fee increases this autumn. The students, who have been in occupation since February 9, rejected his offer of a negotiating committee last week.

The judge issued the order against John Cruse, senior treasurer of the school's union, Roger Galloway, an executive member, David Khan, and Milan Brahman.

When the hearing began in chambers 50 more students asked to be joined with the four defendants. At least 100 more who had marched to the court with banners crowded into the corridor outside.

The judge ruled that it was practicable to allow only seven of them to be so joined.

In an affidavit, Professor Dahrendorf said the academic authorities had not made reasonable attempts to identify the occupiers. Names would have been given if they had been asked for. He also denied that all the staff had been prevented from entering all parts of the occupied block.

Informal proceedings: The judge conducted the proceedings, with an informality almost



Mr Galloway (left) and Mr Cruse in London yesterday.

concerning overseas students had all been delayed. He said the cost to the school of failing to implement the fee increases would be £116m. Failure to implement the increases would entail staff redundancies.

Mr Cruse said the school's authorities had not made reasonable attempts to identify the occupiers. Names would have been given if they had been asked for. He also denied that all the staff had been prevented from entering all parts of the occupied block.

Informal proceedings: The judge conducted the proceedings, with an informality almost

unprecedented in the High Court (the Press Association reports). He called on the seven new defendants in turn, allowing each one to speak from the public benches.

When the original 50 students had replied affirmatively to the judge's question whether anyone else wished to be joined in the action, he said: "You are so helpful."

"However one of the defendants made what was felt to be a telling point: it was greeted with cheers, laughter and a barrage of bench-rapping by the students crammed into the public seats. The judge responded with a smile.

BBC chief defends N Ireland coverage

By Kenneth Gosling

Leaders of the peace movement in its first three months. It was not for the BBC to prejudge a person's legality. It had to be concerned with the legality of the subject-matter; that was much more crucial than the legality of the organizations to which the authors might or might not purport to belong.

"So long as Provisional Sinn Féin is encouraged by the Government to play a political role, it is accepted as a legal organization, mounting rallies and making speeches without fear of prosecution under the law, we are bound to treat them accordingly," Mr Francis said. Even with the paramilitaries, "the avowed mouthpieces of terrorists", some of their community and welfare activities were encouraged and government officials met them for political talks.

It would be illogical and impractical for the media not to cover their activities and to do that responsibly, he believed it was necessary to interview and to investigate the unpalatable side when the information to be gained outweighs the possible propaganda effect.

The detailed figures produced by Mr Francis and his assistants are taken as a rebuttal of views expressed by Mr Mason, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, in a letter to the Belfast branch of the National Union of Journalists last month.

In it he expressed irritation at publicity given to statements "that have no basis in reality".

Mr Francis said that only two interviews with Mr David O'Connell of the Provisional IRA had been broadcast in the past six years. Giving figures from October, 1975, to October, 1976, he said that there had been six interviews on BBC Northern Ireland with Provisional Sinn Féin and 12 with spokesmen for "loyalist" paramilitaries, six of them elected representatives.

That compared, Mr Francis said, with 307 interviews with elected representatives of all other parties, including 56 with United Kingdom ministers. In the year the proportion of paramilitary interviews, 13 out of 335, was extremely low and contrasted with 18 for the

Praise for Unionists over Dublin visit

From Christopher Walker
Belfast

In most parts of the European train journey, hundreds of miles by rail from one neighbouring city to another to talk civic matters would hardly be an eyebrow. But when the Irish border it marks a towards greater understanding between the two communities.

Last night a party of 24 fast city councillors returned from an official two-day visit to Dublin. Their programme included committee discussions on urban renewal and a reception at the Guinness brewery.

Although the symbolic was boycotted by about half Protestant members of Belfast council, the number agreed to attend was sufficient to see the experiment by the press on either side the border as a success.

One of the high spots on the visit was a meeting with the Mayor of Dublin, Mr Samuel Beckett, at the Shelbourne Hotel. The Mayor, a Unionist from the Shelbourne district, addressed a meeting of the two councils his first visit to the capital of the Irish Republic.

There was here to see what situation is regarding working class people in Dublin. I get something done for people, I will go to Rome and get it done," he said a loud applause from the delegates.

Patrick Devlin, Belfast councillor and Roman Catholic police leader, praised those Unionist councillors who had made the journey despite local press attacks that they were being lured into a trap. He explained that the press had been increased by the prospect of local government election in two months time.

Before leaving yesterday, The Enterprise, the Belfast newspaper, which is itself of the few examples of success in the Belfast press, printed a full-page photograph of the two councils' inner areas of Dublin to show housing and environmental questions.

The newly opened dialo between North and South, said Mr Devlin, was a most successful one. Belfast and Dublin council pay a return visit.

UDA rejects talks: The Ulster Defence Association, largest of the "loyalist" paramilitary organizations, yesterday rejected the possibility of cease-fire talks with the Provisional IRA (the PIRA Association reports).

The move had been suggested by the Ulster Loyalist Central Coordinating Committee, a loyalist umbrella group. The UDA said: "We ask how anyone could talk those people after the atrocity that they have committed against both the security forces and the Protestant people in 1970."

Customers for guns never mentioned, witness says

Mr John Banks, who recruited mercenaries for Angola, told a jury at the Central Criminal Court yesterday that he decided to turn informer when he suspected that a consignment of arms he was asked to negotiate were destined for Northern Ireland.

The customers were never mentioned but, believing the guns were destined for the IRA, he wrote a report on the deal, telephoned to the local CID in his home town of Camberley, Surrey, and got in touch with the military.

He was giving evidence at the trial of four men who deny charges under the Prevention of Terrorism Act. They are John Joseph Higgins, aged 34, an electrician, and Stan Fein, chief representative in England, of Rothmans Road, Luton; Edward Caughey, aged 45, unemployed, of Leabon Grove, Leabon Grove, Leabon Grove, Leabon Grove; Gerald Saitley, aged 42, a structural engineer, and James Davidson, aged 32, a bloodstock agent, both of Praed Street, Paddington. Mr Higgins and Mr Caughey face charges involving money paid in connection with acts of terrorism and trying to obtain two-way radio sets for the same purpose. Mr Higgins, Mr Saitley and Mr Davidson are also charged with soliciting John Banks, Michael McKee and Stanley Taylor to give 1,000 carbines, 3,000 magazines, 60,000 rounds of ammunition, 1,000 bayonets and cleaning kits for use in acts of terrorism.

Mr Brian Leary, for the prosecution, recalled conversations between Mr Higgins and Mr Banks after Mr Banks had worked for the "opposition". That, Mr Leary said, meant the Ulster Defence Association.

Counsel said Mr Higgins said he met Mr Caughey by appointment to get £500 from him to buy the radios. He wanted them "for various reasons". The money belonged to Stan Fein, he said, and was to be sent to him.

At one stage he said the radios were for propaganda use in the west of the Irish Republic and he had not taken them to Belfast in case they were confiscated.

The trial continues today.

Official accused over deal that yielded £1m profit

Ronald Norris, aged 58, a former Warwickshire county planning officer, accepted bribes from a businessman to set up a lead deal that yielded a profit of more than £1m it was alleged at Birmingham Crown Court yesterday.

Mr Philip Cox, QC, for the prosecution, said Mr Norris, of Clifford Chambers, near Stratford-on-Avon, was given fuel

oil, a cooker, a freezer, a package holiday and other gifts from Dennis Rose, aged 41, of Oak Tree Close, Leamington Spa, in return for agreeing to Mr Rose's proposal for land development near Wellesbourne.

Mr Rose denies 12 charges of corruptly giving gifts to Mr Norris, who denies corruptly receiving them. Mr Norris also denies forging a cheque and using it.

Counsel said that in return for the bribes Mr Norris "paid scant heed to the objection of the local people of Wellesbourne" and used his great influence as county planning officer to agree to Mr Rose's proposals for the development of 93 acres of the land in which he had an interest.

"As a result of the influence Mr Norris exerted on Mr Rose's behalf a family trust set up by Mr Rose to receive the profits

from the Wellesbourne land transaction benefited to the tune of £1,182,000."

When questioned by the police, Mr Norris at first denied getting anything from Mr Rose, but he later admitted that Mr Rose supplied him with a cooker, washing machine, refrigerator and dishwasher. He was alleged to have said: "Dennis got them for me because he could get a discount."

The trial continues today.

Local decision-making on transport indicated

By Robert Parker

Mr Rodgers, Secretary of State for Transport, indicated yesterday that there would be strong emphasis on local decision-making in the White Paper on transport policy, which he said could be expected towards the end of May.

Giving evidence to a sub-committee of the House of Commons select committee on the nationalized industries, Mr Rodgers said that local passenger transport executives and metropolitan councils should be able to use their discretion as to the people closest to the problems to decide on local transport planning.

But Mr Rodgers said that there might be a conflict between bodies such as British Rail and the National Bus Company and the local councils. He said British Rail had a planning and investment time-scale of between five and 15

years while local authorities often acted on a far shorter scale. He agreed that both BR and the NBC might be subject to difficulties through the vagaries of the local decision-making process.

The overall impression of Mr Rodgers' evidence was that transport objectives, such as those put forward in the cumulative documents now being discussed and originated by the late Mr Croland, would have to be approached very much from the position of the present shortage of money and resources.

He refused to make any commitment to the development of a national network for heavy lorries pointing to the difficulties of some cities which had tried to run their own networks. He also gave a strong indication that the Piccadilly-Victoria rail scheme in Manchester would not go ahead, despite the advanced stage of its planning.

Apology order was justified, tribunal rules

A factory management was ordered to make a public apology to 150 shop-floor workers whom she was alleged to have insulted, after a tribunal ruled yesterday.

Despite her denials, the tribunal decided that Mrs Victoria Marshall, aged 24, of Redditch, had refused to eat Christmas dinner in the works canteen, saying that the shop-floor workers "ate like pigs" and that she would not use the same cutlery.

She told the tribunal that she had been present at the management at A. and P. Springs Ltd, Birmingham, to apologize to avoid a strike.

Mrs Marshall resigned from her job but contended that the circumstances made it an unfair dismissal.

The tribunal ruled that she was not unfairly dismissed.

Minesweeper coxswain says steering was difficult

The coxswain of the minesweeper Fittleton, which sank with the loss of 12 men after a collision, struggled with difficult steering until the ship turned upside down, he said at a court martial at Portsmouth yesterday.

Chief Petty Officer George Cressy said that water rose in the wheelhouse after a collision with the frigate Mermaid in the North Sea last September.

When heaving lines were thrown between the Fittleton and the Mermaid the minesweeper was not easy to steer, he said. He was finding it difficult to keep within five degrees of the given course.

The Fittleton seemed to be going past the Mermaid quickly when the collision occurred. The last order he received was to turn to port 20.

Asked if that seemed a satisfactory order, he replied: "Yes, but subsequently, when the water started coming into the wheelhouse, I realized we must be in contact with the Mermaid."

He realized that the Mermaid was rolling them over, and started to take the port wheel off. But there was a limit to how quickly the wheel could be turned. It would be slow to react to port. He did not get out until the minesweeper had turned upside down.

CPO Cressy, skipper of a tugboat at Chatham, lives at Redd Court Road, Rochester, Kent. He joined the Royal Naval Reserve after serving in the Royal Navy for 12 years.

The commanding officer of the Fittleton, Lieutenant-Commander Peter Paget, aged 44, of Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire, faces four charges by negligence causing the Fittleton

to be hazardous; two charges allowing her to be hazardous; and one charge of allowing her to be lost.

Commander Ian Berry, who seemed to be no real change in course, was hit by the Mermaid's bow.

He agreed with Commander George Beattie, for the Crown, that it would have been madness for the minesweeper's captain to have altered course in that position at that time the Fittleton was ready to replenish.

The hearing continues today.

Two jailed for killing man

Michael Gough, aged 30, of Elm Road, Clonsilla, Co. Wick, and Brian Dickey, aged 24, of Wood Crescent, 1, Brian Lockwood Road, Clonsilla, Co. Wick, were found guilty of murdering a man and were sentenced to two years in prison.

Mr Rodney T. for Mr. Brown was an appeal.

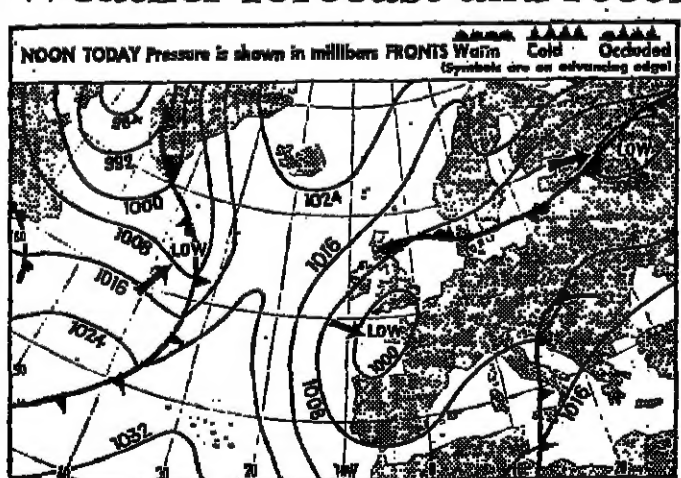
Thames ferry move deferred

British Rail agreed in the High Court yesterday to postpone proposed alterations in its ferry service across the Thames between Gravesend and Tilbury. A new timetable which was to have been introduced next Monday, will be deferred at least until March 13.

British Rail is being sued by the Port of London Authority and the local councils at Gravesend, Kent, and Thurrock, Essex, who want to have the new timetable abandoned altogether.

The case was adjourned for a date to be agreed for a full hearing.

Weather forecast and recordings



Here is the Burberry forecast:

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Police return cannabis to man who was charged

By a Staff Reporter

The Metropolitan police has returned a small quantity of cannabis to a man charged with possessing the drug but against whom no case was presented in court because of a loophole in the law.

In January the Court of Appeal created a loophole by deciding that the stalk and leaves of the cannabis plant, although they contained the active ingredient of cannabis, were not covered by the wording of the Misuse of Drugs Act, 1971.

Mr Chris Christosomou, in his early twenties, of south London, was charged with having 4oz of cannabis. Last week he was told that the substance taken from him had been analysed and that the

police were not going to continue the prosecution.

Scotland Yard said Mr Christosomou visited Earlfield police station on Monday afternoon and was given back a plastic container and a plastic bag "containing a green substance". Mr John Dundon, the man's legal adviser, said yesterday that the laboratory report showed that the substance "was all leaf".

In January the Director of Public Prosecutions intervened to stop the police at Notting Hill, London, returning a quantity of cannabis to an American lawyer, whom the police dropped an action because of the Court of Appeal's ruling.

The Court of Appeal's decision is to be examined in the House of Lords, and the use of an alternative charge of having a cannabis derivative is also to be tested in the courts.

Pay-bed list out by May

The Government expects to publish by the beginning of May a list of 1,000 private beds to be withdrawn from health service hospitals, Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Social Services, announced in a parliamentary written reply yesterday.

He said health authorities in England had been asked to submit to him their detailed proposals by February 28. That would allow reasonable time for considering their recommendations before May 21, when revised pay-bed authorizations must be complete.

Boys find 9 mortar bombs on beach

From Our Correspondent
Folkestone

A £400,000 coast-defence scheme was halted by the Army last night after nine mortar bombs had been found on the beach at St Mary's Bay, Kent. The Army has suspended the licence it granted to the Southern Water Authority to remove millions of tons of shingle from its military ranges at Lydd to

strengthen seawall defences at the bay.

Two weeks ago it said it believed the shingle was reasonably safe; but yesterday Brendan Madden, aged 13, and his brother Sean, aged 12, of Mead's Way, St Mary's Bay, found the bombs on the beach near their home. They dumped some at the local police station and took others home.

The Army said that live am-

munition was used on Lydd ranges but not on the part where the work was being done. Only dummy mortar shells were used there. But it added that it was impossible to say that there was no live ammunition in the area. It urged parents to tell children not to touch any suspicious object found on the beach or in the training areas but to tell the police immediately.

Car safety risks attack

More than half a million new cars are expected to be sold in the UK this year, but a report in the Daily Mirror says that car safety is a major concern.

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Swimsuit transpire

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ME NEWS

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netting, which is Scottish and English id diverting salmon British market to the culchies at inland being investigated by protection author- and England. e conference of mem- officials of water meeting at Fish- Haulmo in London. sh on its agenda. es in the law prevent ing taken against drift-netting salmon they run for the land and Scotland, after their catch its outside the fishing present action can only against landing

r the wholesale price lean has already 3.40 a lb. It can be much more on the and in extreme cases, in for instance, sal- retailing at £14.14 a lb. It will be more this year.

he 1976 season, it is 60 drift-netting boats 300 tons of salmon, 700,000 off Scotland this year it is pre- the take will be at. It is feared that now in force on ishing will turn the shing fleet to the v. expensive salmon erses to make quick.

er authorities have up to one mile off iparian owners or y take action against fishermen up to is out. Some river like the Tweed Com- have fishing up as out but the shore the fishery protec- ties, lack of vessels kes it a free-for-all e miles.

nce by the Scots has shown that fish- are going to sea and with no catch while d crews apparently Scottish fishery off- last night: "These eing regularly provi- fuelled, with no ch to provide the il. We believe they g to Continental sea." ing of salmon is hav- act on the rod-and- ten and therefore on ndustry, particularly and Yorkshire.

Convulsions not caused by vaccine

By Our Medical Correspondent

While medical experts in Britain continue to argue about the frequency of serious adverse reactions to whooping cough vaccine a survey in Denmark has produced some reassurance for those in favour of its use.

Seven years ago the Danish immunization programme was changed so that the first dose of the vaccine was to be given at five weeks of age, whereas before 1970 it had been given at five months. If administration of the vaccine is indeed a chief cause of convulsions and infant spasms, that change in the programme should have led to a change in the age at which children develop those symptoms.

The statistics show no evidence of such a change. Denmark is a small country

Offers to help Lady Churchill declined

By Hugh Clayton

The Government told farmers yesterday that they could not escape the financial sacrifices that faced the rest of the British people. Mr. Silkin, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said: "Nobody can opt out. Price increases that might have been perfectly reasonable and defensible in normal circumstances may need to be held up today in the national interest."

It was his most uncompromising reply yet to contentions from farming unions that proposed increases in EEC support prices that would add at least 50p a week to British family food shopping bills are inadequate.

"Patriotism has its disciplines as well as its rewards," Mr. Silkin told members of the National Farmers' Union at Market Harborough, Leicestershire.

"Britain's agriculture must expect to share sacrifices with the rest of the country," Mr. Silkin said. "Inevitable price rises fixed by the EEC would push up butter by 12p a pound in Britain this year and cheese would increase by 5p."

His speech will annoy farmers who believe that price rises are needed for investment, but will delight food processors, leading trade unionists and consumer groups.

North-west is against NHS reorganization

From John Charteris, Manchester

The North Western Regional Health Authority, which claims to serve one of the largest and most deprived regions in England, is to tell the Royal Commission on the National Health Service that, while many matters are unsatisfactory, the time is not right for another reorganization.

The authority's submission to the royal commission which was published yesterday said: "We cannot emphasize too strongly our firm belief that, at a time when both the health and local government services are still struggling to recover from the trauma of major reorganization, any suggestion of further large-scale reorganization or reallocation of functions in the foreseeable future would be quite unacceptable."

The north-western authority totally opposes any solution which has been put forward recently, the transfer of health functions back to elected local authorities.

A recent government Green Paper rejected that solution and the authority's evidence says: "We do not believe the National Health Service could withstand the trauma of a further major reorganization of the kind which would be involved in the transfer of functions to local government."

All the energies of those in the National Health Service need to be devoted to meeting its immediate problems. To divert effort into solving the problem contingent upon another major reorganization would, in our view, be quite wrong."

The evidence document goes on to say that many people and organizations consider that the 1974 regrouping of both local health and health services resulted in a pattern that was "far from ideal".

"We are convinced that too little time was given to consideration of the needs of the health service both before and after the final pattern of local government organization was determined."

"We consider it to have been a major political error that this step was not taken before the National Health Service was committed to its present pattern."

"Nevertheless, we are equally convinced that although the present structure is far from ideal it can, given time and goodwill, be made to work in a reasonable and acceptable manner, subject to some changes within the present framework of local authorities."

The authority administers 146 hospitals, nearly 500 health centres and clinics and practitioner services between Stockport and Lancaster. It would like the royal commission to examine in detail the present structure which allows for regional, multi-district and single-district areas.

That structure, it says, is "unrealistic" based as it is on a purely political decision that area health authorities should be commensurate with those of local authorities responsible for social services.

The adoption of that principle, the evidence says, has led to different patterns of health services in the shire and metropolitan counties.

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Public asked to protest over court lists

By a Staff Reporter

Judge Llewellyn advised the public at Bloomsbury and Marylebone County Court yesterday to complain to Parliament about county court administration. He said judges could do nothing about the overfilled court lists, which were inconveniencing everyone.

"Since the Courts Act the matter has been taken out of the judges' hands," he said, "and court administrators seem to feel it is their duty to fill every minute of the judge's day, no matter what the inconvenience to counsel, solicitors, litigants and others."

"The best thing people can do is to write to their members of Parliament. I have already made strong representations."

There were 38 cases listed yesterday, 22 of them before Judge Llewellyn, who was able to clear them quickly.

Clerk ran season ticket fraud

Mark Wright, aged 22, a London Transport booking clerk, ran a season ticket fraud after losing money gambling, it was stated at Marylebone Magistrates' Court, London, yesterday.

Mr Wright, of Kenwyn Drive, Cricklewood, was given a six-week suspended prison sentence, fined £10 with £40 costs and ordered to pay £110.60 compensation for theft and falsifying accounts.

Farmers told to share price burden with consumers

By Hugh Clayton

The Government told farmers yesterday that they could not escape the financial sacrifices that faced the rest of the British people. Mr. Silkin, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said: "Nobody can opt out. Price increases that might have been perfectly reasonable and defensible in normal circumstances may need to be held up today in the national interest."

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"Nevertheless, we are equally convinced that although the present structure is far from ideal it can, given time and goodwill, be made to work in a reasonable and acceptable manner, subject to some changes within the present framework of local authorities."

The authority administers 146 hospitals, nearly 500 health centres and clinics and practitioner services between Stockport and Lancaster. It would like the royal commission to examine in detail the present structure which allows for regional, multi-district and single-district areas.

That structure, it says, is "unrealistic" based as it is on a purely political decision that area health authorities should be commensurate with those of local authorities responsible for social services.

The adoption of that principle, the evidence says, has led to different patterns of health services in the shire and metropolitan counties.

The evidence document goes on to say that many people and organizations consider that the 1974 regrouping of both local health and health services resulted in a pattern that was "far from ideal".

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At 10pm on February 6, 1977, these seven Jesuit priests and nuns were murdered...



Father Martin Thomas, 43

Brother John Conway, 57

Father Christopher Sheppard-Smith, 34

Sister Epiphany Berta Schneider, 73

Sister Colum Anna Siegle, 59

Sister Magdalene Christina Leonard, 42

Brother Joseph Pauline Williams, 55

...who was responsible?

The British Foreign Office says it will never be proved. But the Jesuits point out that two witnesses are alive. Father Dunstan Myerscough, "a down-to-earth Lancashire lad whose testimony they will never change" (he laid down and miraculously escaped the 111 shots fired) and the nun who was too ill to walk. Both say the killers were African guerrillas.

Superintendent John Potter, policeman in charge of the area said they were members of the Zimbabwe African National Union but he doubted if the gang had been under instruction to kill the missionaries. "They seem to do their own thing," he said. "If the gang wanted to kill Europeans they would kill Europeans."

But someone pays and feeds and arms these men who are almost daily murdering the innocent in the name of "Freedom".

FACT: In September 1970, the 15 members of the World Council of Churches met in Geneva and decided, without dissent, to use their Special Fund to Combat Racism to support guerrilla organisations in the following unequivocal terms:

"The proceeds of the Fund shall be used to support organisations that combat racism, rather than welfare organisations that alleviate the effects of racism... While these grants are made without control in the manner in which they are spent, they are at the same time a commitment of the Programme to Combat Racism."

WARNINGS and protests in the strongest terms were made immediately by bishops and archbishops, and other leading churchmen throughout the world, that this decision would inevitably lead to bloodshed in Southern Africa. Nevertheless, in four years, no less than £362,000 was handed over to 11 African movements. Thus was the World Council of Churches, in the words of its secretary-general "programmed to fight racism". Later there were attempts to control how

the money was used, but for non-military purposes, but a Jesuit spokesman recently called these "Nave".

FACT: On February 6 this year, seven white Roman Catholic missionaries, four of them women, were lined up and shot dead at St Paul's Mission at Musoma, only 30 miles north of Salisbury, Rhodesia. The London "Times" reported: "The massacre took place at about 10 p.m. when a gang of 12 guerrillas entered the mission. The African staff were ignored, only the Whites were rounded up."

JUDGMENT on responsibility for what the Pope called a "detestable act of violence" may have to wait. But every individual THINKING member of a church can take steps to ensure that no money which he or she gives should become part of the World Council of Churches "Programme to Combat Racism".

ACTION: WRITE NOW to your own church and to the World Council of Churches at 150 Route de Feney, 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland.

le voters
ates

PARLIAMENT, February 22, 1977

Britain would not feel slighted if resident Amin stayed away from Commonwealth conference

of Commons
Mr. Amos told the House of Commons that the British Government would not feel slighted if Mr. Amin did not attend the Commonwealth conference in London. He said that the British Government was not in a position to demand that Mr. Amin should attend the conference, and that it was up to Mr. Amin to decide whether or not to attend. Mr. Amos said that the British Government was not in a position to demand that Mr. Amin should attend the conference, and that it was up to Mr. Amin to decide whether or not to attend.

PS system likened to fagging

ranges on the rules govern-
ment of Parliament. Mr. James Callaghan, Prime Minister, said that the PS system was like fagging. He said that the PS system was a system of control and discipline, and that it was not a system of freedom and democracy. He said that the PS system was a system of control and discipline, and that it was not a system of freedom and democracy.

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ner More (Ludlow, C) was
to be a Bill to the law relating to food and drink. He said that the Bill was a Bill to the law relating to food and drink, and that it was a Bill to the law relating to food and drink. He said that the Bill was a Bill to the law relating to food and drink, and that it was a Bill to the law relating to food and drink.

AF units in Germany et requirements

what readiness of RAF units
in Germany. Mr. James Callaghan, Prime Minister, said that the RAF units in Germany were not ready to meet the requirements of the NATO alliance. He said that the RAF units in Germany were not ready to meet the requirements of the NATO alliance, and that they were not ready to meet the requirements of the NATO alliance.

Government oppose Bill curtailing animal experiments for cosmetics

of Lords
The Government has opposed a Bill which would curtail animal experiments for cosmetics. The Bill would require that all animal experiments for cosmetics be carried out in a laboratory which is licensed by the Home Office. The Government has opposed the Bill because it believes that animal experiments are necessary for the development of new cosmetics, and that they are necessary for the safety of the public.

Collective chaos from wages tree-for-all

A return to free collective bargaining
this year would lead to chaos, Mr. James Callaghan said. He said that the return to free collective bargaining would lead to chaos, and that it would lead to chaos. He said that the return to free collective bargaining would lead to chaos, and that it would lead to chaos.

Further talks on Nato airborne early warning: Nimrod project continues

No decision has been reached on
the Nimrod Airborne Early Warning project. Mr. James Callaghan, Prime Minister, said that the Nimrod project was a project to develop a new type of aircraft, and that it was a project to develop a new type of aircraft. He said that the Nimrod project was a project to develop a new type of aircraft, and that it was a project to develop a new type of aircraft.

A question went to and fro but got nowhere

Mr. Frank Alderson (Salford, East, Lab) asked the Prime Minister a question about the defence of the country. He said that the defence of the country was a question that was being asked, and that it was a question that was being asked. He said that the defence of the country was a question that was being asked, and that it was a question that was being asked.

Bill to tackle cruelties of poaching deer

Lord Northbrook (Lab), moving the
Bill to tackle the cruelties of poaching deer. He said that the Bill was a Bill to tackle the cruelties of poaching deer, and that it was a Bill to tackle the cruelties of poaching deer. He said that the Bill was a Bill to tackle the cruelties of poaching deer, and that it was a Bill to tackle the cruelties of poaching deer.

New peer

Lord Penrhyn (Dorset, Con) was
created a new peer. He said that he was a new peer, and that he was a new peer. He said that he was a new peer, and that he was a new peer.

Guillotine motion on devolution measure defeated by 29 votes

Mr. Michael Foot, Lord President
of the Council and Leader of the House (Edinburgh, Lab), moving the guillotine motion on devolution. He said that the guillotine motion was a motion to limit the time for the debate on devolution, and that it was a motion to limit the time for the debate on devolution. He said that the guillotine motion was a motion to limit the time for the debate on devolution, and that it was a motion to limit the time for the debate on devolution.

'No genuine majority for measure'

Mr. Francis Pym, Chief Opposition
Spokesman (Cambridge, Con), said that there was no genuine majority for the measure. He said that there was no genuine majority for the measure, and that there was no genuine majority for the measure. He said that there was no genuine majority for the measure, and that there was no genuine majority for the measure.

Textbook functioning of House

Mr. Tam Dalyell (West Lothian, Lab) said that the House was functioning like a textbook. He said that the House was functioning like a textbook, and that it was functioning like a textbook. He said that the House was functioning like a textbook, and that it was functioning like a textbook.

Government continuing with Bill on Thursday

After the division result had been
announced, Mr. Francis Pym, Opposition
Spokesman on devolution, said that the Government was continuing with the Bill on Thursday. He said that the Government was continuing with the Bill on Thursday, and that it was continuing with the Bill on Thursday. He said that the Government was continuing with the Bill on Thursday, and that it was continuing with the Bill on Thursday.

Anyone can suggest award of an honour

Mr. James Callaghan, Prime Minister,
said that anyone could suggest an award of an honour. He said that anyone could suggest an award of an honour, and that anyone could suggest an award of an honour. He said that anyone could suggest an award of an honour, and that anyone could suggest an award of an honour.

Speaker will rule on 'jobs hint' report

Mr. Robert Adley (Churchill, Lab) said that the Speaker would rule on the 'jobs hint' report. He said that the Speaker would rule on the 'jobs hint' report, and that the Speaker would rule on the 'jobs hint' report. He said that the Speaker would rule on the 'jobs hint' report, and that the Speaker would rule on the 'jobs hint' report.

WEST EUROPE

EEC plea to Britain on farm prices

From Michael Hornsby
Brussels, Feb 22

Britain was exhorted in Brussels today not to sacrifice an opportunity to take the first real steps towards reform of the EEC's common agricultural policy for the sake of a compromise of only short-term advantage.

The plea came from Mr Christopher Tugendhat, the EEC Commissioner responsible for budgetary affairs, who was involved in the drafting of the 1977-78 common farm price proposals unveiled earlier this month by his agricultural colleague, Mr Finn Olav Gundelach.

Mr Tugendhat accepts that Britain's immediate aim is bound to be an agreement that will have the least impact on domestic food prices, especially as there will be an automatic 2 per cent increase anyway this year because of alignment with EEC price levels.

What is worrying him is that while a number of possible compromises could secure this short-term British objective, they could affect the prospects for a longer-term reordering of agricultural priorities in the Community generally.

In particular, Mr Tugendhat is concerned that Mr John Silkin, the British Minister of Agriculture, could find it politically expedient to agree to an average price increase higher than the 3 per cent proposed by the Commission in return for a smaller devaluation of the "green" pound than the recommended 6 per cent.

Mr Tugendhat believes that this could deal a fatal blow to the strategy pursued by him and Mr Gundelach against the EEC's chronic structural surpluses.

He believes that the climate for farm policy reform is more propitious than it is likely to be again for some time, because of the general concern about inflation. This has already led to some novel postures being struck.

TV blackout in France

Paris, Feb 22.—A strike by French television and radio staffs caused the cancellation of many programmes today. It was part of a week's series of strikes in support of a general pay and conditions agreement which will culminate in a general stoppage of technical, artistic, administrative and journalistic staff tomorrow. Reuters.

Choice of site for nuclear waste dump in Lower Saxony certain to anger environment lobby

From Dan van der Var
Bonn, Feb 22

The Lower Saxony Land Government today announced its choice of a site for the highly controversial West German national dump for radioactive waste from nuclear power stations.

It is situated underground at Gorleben. Subject to confirmation (which cannot be taken for granted) from the Hanover Parliament, it is likely to create more problems than it solves.

The Lower Saxons have been under increasing pressure from the federal Government in Bonn to name a site. Without a waste dump, the country's nuclear power programme could have been crippled. It has already been curtailed because of a nationwide wave of protest, the latest evidence of which was provided by mass demonstrations last weekend.

Gorleben is a small town close to the Elbe and the East German border. This fact alone may prompt objections to the choice of strategic grounds. It would be one of the first places to be overrun in the event of a military advance from the east.

It is also on the edge of a

nature reserve, which is bound to arouse the hostility of the growing environmental lobby as well as the opponents of nuclear power. Gorleben was one of five possible sites under consideration.

The ideal site from a scientific point of view is a deepening deposit of natural salt. In West Germany, such deposits are found only in the eastern part of Lower Saxony.

The plan for the dump requires the construction of a reprocessing plant. Some of the waste from burnt-out power station elements can be recycled. When the waste has been reduced to the unavoidable minimum, it is to be placed in sealed radiation-proof containers and buried in the salt. Gorleben has huge deposits of salt 30 million years old.

The favoured site offers at a depth of 3,300ft below ground a salt deposit about two miles long and well over a mile wide. Scientists believe that waste will have to be kept there for a millennium until the level of radioactivity declines to a safe level. This poses security problems in a relatively small, almost locked country which would be in the front line of European hostilities.

There are also fears that the East Germans may use the decision as a ground for continuing to refuse significant co-operation on environmental matters with West Germany. Local people in Gorleben are already up in arms. The district is rural and heavily dependent on agriculture.

A local action group against the nuclear dump has already existed for some months. A spokesman said today that the dump threatened the area with unknown dangers. The technology was not fully developed. People would refuse to buy agricultural products from the area, whether the dump actually affected it or not. Important recent investment in local tourism would be money down the drain.

The Land government was careful to say today that its choice was not irreversible. It had been made to enable the contractors to start the legal process for obtaining planning permission. This could take three years and the final decision would also depend on the outcome of the planning application.

If construction goes ahead on schedule, the entire complex would be ready by 1985, with parts of it in operation some years earlier.

Parisien Libere mediator gives up

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, Feb 22

Mr Jean Morin, appointed by the Government last December to mediate in the interminable dispute between the management of the newspaper *Le Parisien Libere* and the 665 members of the printers' union on strike for nearly two years, has conceded defeat.

His report to the Minister of Labour published today, concludes that "the standpoints of the parties to the conflict appear irreconcilable, both on points of law and of certain facts, and on its solutions".

The mediator has put forward proposals to solve the human problem of the 562 printers who have not found alternative employment. These proposals involve the early retirement of 73 of them at the age of 55; the voluntary retirement of 110 others, with severance pay of 60,000 francs (£8,700); the reemployment of 160 others, including 20 by *Le Parisien Libere*, and the rest by other press concerns; and the granting to the remaining 219 of full unemployment benefits of 90 per cent of wages for one year.

Finally, the mediator suggests that all French press organs published abroad should be represented by agreement between employers and unions.

OVERSEAS

Israeli in tears after five-year sentence

From Our Correspondent
Tel Aviv, Feb 22

Mr Asher Yadin, who was one step away from the office of Governor of the Bank of Israel only six months ago, today went to prison to begin a five-year sentence for accepting bribes.

A lone tear rolled down his face as he was led to the prison. The 54-year-old economist, who had been one of the most influential men in the country, heard Judge Hadassah Ben-Tito, a former classmate, pronounce sentence. He was accused of taking "kickbacks" amounting to 124,000 Israeli pounds (more than £3,600) from an attorney and a real estate agent for various land transactions involving Kupat Holim, the vast workers' sick fund over which he presided.

Mr Yadin was also fined a total of 25,000 Israeli pounds (about £700). The judge said she did not believe Mr Yadin's claim that he had been misled by the Israel Labour Party. Party 80,000 Israeli pounds (about £2,300) that he had received from Mr Haim Goshen, the attorney.

She also scolded the prisoner for springing on the court last week a statement implying that prominent personalities, including Cabinet ministers, had knowingly mulcted large trade union institutions for funds for the party. She noted that his testimony came after the case had closed with an agreement with the prosecution under which he pleaded guilty to some counts and others were amended.

Eric Marsden writes from Jerusalem: Under the cloud of a party scandal, delegates to the convention of the Israel Labour Party are gathered here to agree on the party's platform for the general election in May, and to nominate their choice for Prime Minister. The leadership contest to be decided tomorrow night after the convention moves to Tel Aviv, will be a straight fight between Mr Rabin, the present Prime Minister, and Mr Shimon Peres, the Defence Minister.

Most observers predict a close

race, but supporters of Mr Peres were confident tonight that he can count on 60 per cent of the delegates.

The delegates arriving today were conscious of the possible implications for the Labour Party of the fall sentence on Mr Yadin. His disgrace is thought certain to harm Labour's election chances; and more immediately, to make it harder for Mr Rabin to retain his posts as party leader and Prime Minister.

The Rabin-Peres confrontation, which marks the first time a serving Prime Minister has been challenged by one of his Cabinet colleagues, has aroused strong feelings among party stalwarts. Mrs Golda Meir, the former Prime Minister, who is now a backstage adviser to the Government, has criticized Mr Peres for his decision.

She contended that it was not good for the party for someone to seek to be Prime Minister when he had no difference of opinion with the present leader, and no new plan.

Mr Peres has campaigned on the need for change in the party and has claimed that under him Labour would win more Knesset seats. Mr Rabin has implied in interviews that Mr Peres has sought extra money for the Defence Ministry at the expense of social reforms and lacks sufficient understanding of military matters.

Party officials assert that after the contest the ranks will close again and that Labour will face the election all the stronger. In press advertisements, the party convention is described as "a lesson in democracy which will one day be taught in schools in citizenship lessons".

Mr Rabin emphasized tonight in a speech to the convention that the Government is ready for peace negotiations at Geneva without delay, and without preconditions, but repeated Israel's stand that any talks on return of parts of the West Bank must be with Jordan and not with the PLO.

Mr Trudeau confident Canada will stay united

From Our Own Correspondent
Washington, Feb 22

Mr Trudeau, the Canadian Prime Minister, told United States Congress today that the unity of Canada would not be broken. "There will be some adjustments, and negotiations will take place," he said. "We will succeed."

His speech was much more sharply to the point than in such discourses. He went straight to the issue which tormented his audience: the separatist movement in Quebec. "Our Confederation has known, in the course of first century, a promise though incomplete success, have not been able to create the conditions in which French Canadians have been able to feel themselves in a real state of equality with their English-speaking compatriots, nor have they been able to develop fully the richness of their cultural heritage."

"That is the heart of the problem. That is why certain Quebecers think that they should separate from Canada and found their own country. The new government of Quebec has adopted a policy of forming to the views of a minority even though during the election campaign the Parti Quebecois sought votes for a sound government and not secession."

The Prime Minister said if Canadians would have change some of their minds and that they would have understood each other better across the linguistic barrier.

He added: "It may be that we will have to revise some aspects of our constitution that the six and a half million French-speaking Canadians should consider the Canadian federation their best protection against being swallowed up in the mass of 220 million English-speaking North Americans."

Rhodesia first test for Dr Owen

Continued from page 1

improvement in relations between the Soviet Union and the Community (which the Russians do not recognize). "If you had looked for that in the context of fish six months ago, it would have been very surprising," he said.

Dr Owen, clearly, is most at ease on Community matters, where he was the junior Foreign Office minister in charge. He feels particularly gratified about the progress on fishery policy, where he believes that Britain's "rather national" position on conservation measures led to the right result. Many people, he said, had wanted Britain to act more vigorously, but in fact the policy of steady pressure which Mr

Crosland had backed was proving itself.

He regards foreign policy as he saw domestic policy, as concerned with improving the condition of people's lives, in Britain and in other countries. The Health Service (on which he has written a book) represents for him everything that socialism is about. If he could bring anything to his new office, he added, it would be support for the ideals of human dignity, rights and the freedom of the individual.

Nothing had given him greater pleasure in yesterday's reports of his appointment than the inability of the press to categorize what sort of socialist he was. "I like to look at things on their merits."

The most immediate of the issues is, of course, Rhodesia in trying to get a settlement. There was no option he would make, including South Africa if he thought it worth help.

Mrs Hart's post: Mrs Hart, appointed Minister of State Overseas Development, in a reshuffle, will be known as Minister for Overseas Development. It was made clear yesterday that Mrs Judd, her predecessor, was to be a junior minister.

The post does not carry Cabinet rank. When Mr Price was appointed to it in July 1975, he continued the Cabinet ranking to which he had been entitled as Secretary of State for Education.

Leading article, page 1

South African photographer wins an award

Johannesburg, Feb 22.—A

photographer who has spent 27 months in detention has become the first black South African to win the country's highest award in journalism, given for his coverage of the Soweto township riots last year.

Mr Peter Magubane, aged 43, was presented with the 2,500 rand (about £1,700) Stellenbosch Farmers Winery Award for outstanding journalism by Mr Walter Crookall, the American television commentator.

After covering the disturbances for the *Rand Daily Mail* for more than 10 weeks, he was held in detention without charge for four months and then just after Christmas. He had previously spent a total of 23 months in jail, 17 of them in solitary confinement.

President Amin's hint of Uganda plot deaths

From Our Correspondent
Nairobi, Feb 22

President Amin of Uganda today hinted that some people in the country, presumably members of the armed forces, had lost their lives in controlling the situation created by the recent plot to overthrow his régime.

He said he had sent a message of condolence to their relatives, and gave no indication of how many people died, or who they were.

Some supporters of the plot were in the armed forces, and that they had overpowered others loyal to him. He said that the dissidents were collaborating with exiles, Zionists and imperialist agents.

The Anglican Bishop of Maseno, Kenya, the Right Rev

Henry Okullu has issued a statement in Nairobi appealing to the Organisation of African Unity to convene a summit meeting to find ways of helping the people of Uganda "who are marooned by a bunch of lunatic soldiers".

Nations should no longer regard the fate of Ugandans as an internal matter for their own countries to solve.

The phone and tele links between Kenya and Uganda were restored today after having been interrupted since Sunday, with only a brief respite yesterday.

A Kenyan newspaper, the *Standard*, reported today that the widow and children of Archbishop Luvum had been restricted to their home in Kampala.

Americans are still undecided about Mr Carter

Folksy image contrasts with ambition

From Patrick Brogan
Washington, Feb 22

There was once an Italian fisherman who became a priest. He earned a reputation for humility because he always spread a fishing net above his dinner table, to remind himself and his guests of his humble origins.

He rose through the ranks and at last became Pope. He gave a state dinner for the cardinals, who noted with astonishment that the net had disappeared. They asked His Holiness what had become of it, and were told: "There is no need to spread a net after the fish is caught."

Mr Jimmy Carter continues to behave in office much as he did when he was a simple mill-honoree peanut farmer running for President. He wears a cardigan when addressing the American people on television, he has been known to walk the streets of Washington, he teaches in the Sunday school at his local church.

He has been President for a month now, and the American people have yet to make up their minds about him. They are not really sure whether he is just another ordinary citizen living in the White House, or whether behind the folksy appearance there lurks another ambition-driven egomaniac like every other elected President.

Mr Carter decided to run for the presidency in 1972, immediately after that year's Democratic convention, and subordinated everything else to the task. For the following four years, people find it difficult to reconcile the folksy image with this most basic fact about his career, his ambition and his egoism. How can anyone who thinks himself the best man to be President of the United States be also an ordinary citizen?

His most memorable public gesture so far was to walk from the Capitol to the White House after his inauguration.

Mr Carter was fortunate in the weather and the lack of any hostile demonstration on his day of glory. Then he let it be known that the bands that accompany a President everywhere would be discouraged from playing *Hail to the Chief* every time he appeared (it is a flourish of trumpets precedes his appearance).

All this is very unimperial but at the same time the Carter family is being sent around the country in the manner, royal. The "Queen Mother", Mrs Lillian Carter, and the "Princess of Wales", Mrs Carter, were sent off to represent the President at

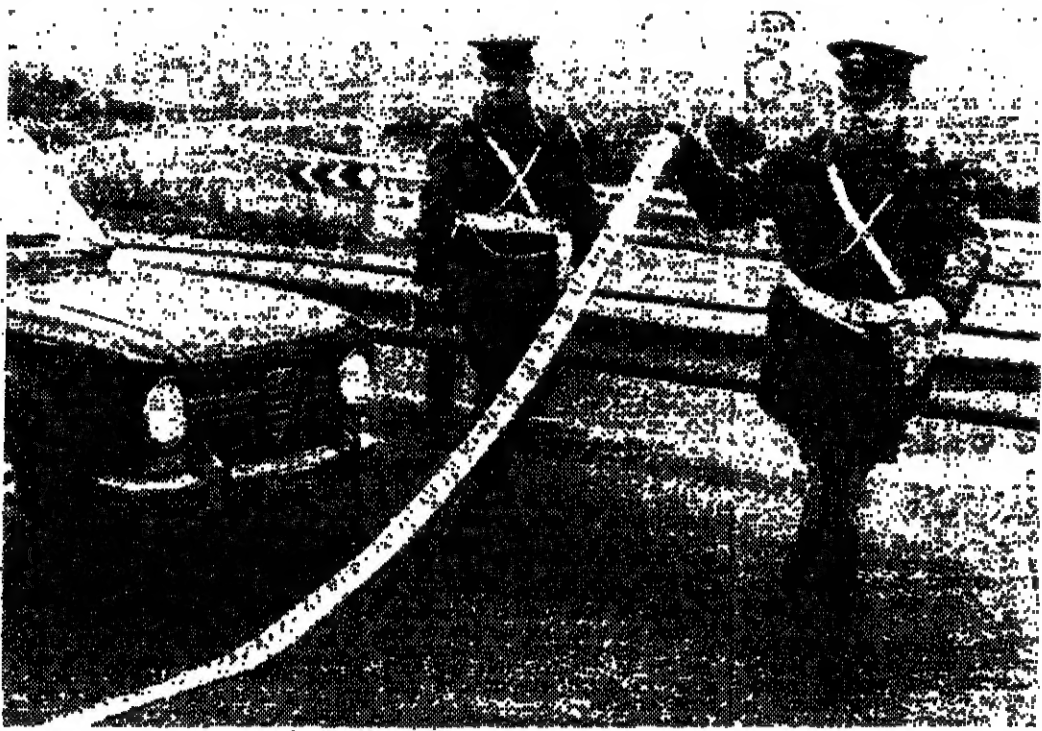
the funeral of the Indian President. The "Princess" was sent to Buffalo to commiserate with the royal subjects who have been buried in 14 ft of snow. "Queen" Rosalynn was made "honorary chairperson" of council on mental health, and the charm and naturalness of "Princess" Amy are being given full and public rein.

People see the government they deserve, and if they refer to the President's family as "the First Family" and his wife as "the First Lady" then the President's family will behave accordingly.

The danger that faces the President is that he may have destroyed himself. Like a politician, he has made promises, some of them vague and some of them vague but now he has got into the unfortunate habit of reminding everyone of those promises.

The most important of these is that he will be honest and ordinary and that he will give the Americans a government they can love. The trappings of the Carter presidency—cardigans and carrier bags, must be kept, because, unlike the Pop an American President has a run for re-election. But an honest and ordinary President cannot provide a lovely government, let alone a balance budget and peace in the Middle East.

Anyway, if the American people want an honest and ordinary President, they would have kept Mr Ford.



A strip of long nails is placed across a road by Rome police under new regulations allowing stricter measures at road blocks.

End in sight to strikes in Holland

From Sue Masterman
The Hague, Feb 22

Dutch employers and trade union federations made important progress today towards ending strikes which still hold up work in the ports, several hundred building projects and a variety of industries.

Representatives of the port employers from Rotterdam and Amsterdam, where the unions claim that between 80 and 90 per cent of the essential services are idle, will meet the unions in Rotterdam tomorrow for talks. The employers have not demanded a return to work as a condition for talks, and the unions have made no move to send their 6,725 striking members back to work.

In the building sector, the unions have agreed that all strikes, affecting some 6,500 workers on 150 projects, will end tomorrow morning. A basis has been found for a new wage agreement, they say. A union spokesman said he expected a small pay rise over and above the automatic compensation for the rise in the cost of living.

The strikes, which have now lasted 12 working days, have won for the unions, at least for the present year, the automatic price compensation they demanded as well as a rise in real income.

Communist Party in Spain will remain illegal

Madrid, Feb 22.—The

Spanish Government has rejected the request of the Communist Party to be legalized. An Interior Ministry statement said today that the "antecedents and the aims" of the party appear to be sufficient reasons for its request to be rejected.

Yesterday it was announced that Señora Dolores Ibarruri, the "exiled party president and 'Las Pasionarias' of the civil war, as well as Señor Santiago Carrillo, the party's secretary-general, who is now living in the Soviet Union, were to be candidates in legislative elections expected this spring. —Agence France-Press.

Our Madrid Correspondent writes: Señor Eduardo Carriles, the Finance Minister, announced tonight that a further 50,000m

pesetas (£400m) will be used to stimulate the ailing economy and to try to reduce the level of unemployment.

He said the price freeze, which was introduced last November on a wide range of goods, would continue in an effort to combat inflation, which is unofficially estimated to be running at 20 per cent.

Señor Carriles added that subsidies may be introduced to maintain the freeze, which has not worked very effectively.

Señor Mariano Sanchez Correas, the leader of the right-wing extremist group, Warriors of Christ the King, was arrested this afternoon along with 10 other people after police discovered an arms factory in a flat in Madrid.

Eight of those arrested are Italian. One, a woman, is French.

Soviet call to ban all tests

From Our Correspondent
Geneva, Feb 22

A call to France and China to participate in negotiations for ending all nuclear testing was made in the 30-nation disarmament conference today by the Soviet delegation, Mr V. I. Likhtchev.

"We consider it necessary, without waiting for the start of negotiations on the whole range of nuclear disarmament problems, to ban nuclear and weapon tests by everybody and everywhere," he said.

The question of prohibiting underground tests has been artificially complicated by exaggerating the problem of supervision.

Although Russia maintained that seismic instruments could now eliminate this difficulty, it had nevertheless proposed that a party to a comprehensive test ban treaty could raise the question of on-site inspection to ascertain whether a particular subterranean disturbance was natural or nuclear.

MPs shy about Europe ambitions

Continued from page 1
bring forward a direct elections Bill proposing that the boundaries commissions for England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland should be authorized to carve up the 635 constituencies into groups of eight or nine to create 51 European constituencies.

A fierce argument is expected from Westminster MPs that any carve-up, particularly if the procedure for inquiries is to be curtailed, should wait until the boundary commissions have brought all electoral quotas roughly into line in 1979.

It is also a political factor, of course, that a European election falling in a trough year for the governing party might produce a landslide for the Opposition party. In Wales, however, it has to be assumed that only Labour would win any of the European representation, with some European constituencies running from Chester to Pembroke, a geographical scale that would make party organization virtually impossible. Similarly, in Scotland the Scottish National Party might sweep the board, except for Russell Johnston, the Liberal, in the north.

Without the adoption of the list system, the definition of European parliamentary boundaries and the methodology of the election, quite apart from the questions of party organization, look like devouring far more parliamentary time than the Government has at all.

Both the main parties have begun to compile lists of willing European candidates. The names are not being released on the argument that, until the Bill appears, Westminster MPs might lose support in their constituencies if it were known that they were standing a future European election. Significantly, several of the present European MPs, some elected by the Parliamentary Labour Party and others nominated by the Conservative Party, intend to stand for the directly elected Strasbourg Parliament, but none of them so far wishes the fact to be published.

One of the embarrassments of the main parties at Westminster is that European MPs, in a directly elected parliament, may expect to draw between £20,000 and £25,000 a year, with two or three aides provided on the parliamentary budget. That compares with a maximum of £8,500 for MPs at Westminster.

Clearly, there will be hard feelings if the salary gap turns out to be as wide as that. Mr Carter decided to run for the presidency in 1972, immediately after that year's Democratic convention, and subordinated everything else to the task. For the following four years, people find it difficult to reconcile the folksy image with this most basic fact about his career, his ambition and his egoism. How can anyone who thinks himself the best man to be President of the United States be also an ordinary citizen?

His most memorable public gesture so far was to walk from the Capitol to the White House after his inauguration.

Mr Carter was fortunate in the weather and the lack of any hostile demonstration on his day of glory. Then he let it be known that the bands that accompany a President everywhere would be discouraged from playing *Hail to the Chief* every time he appeared (it is a flourish of trumpets precedes his appearance).

All this is very unimperial but at the same time the Carter family is being sent around the country in the manner, royal. The "Queen Mother", Mrs Lillian Carter, and the "Princess of Wales", Mrs Carter, were sent off to represent the President at

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ERSEAS

Auckland's winds ve rain to Queen

oger Berthoud
d, Feb 22
een received an almost
singly warm welcome
e arrived in Auckland
e her fortnight's tour
Zealand. Huge crowds
regress difficult when
the Duke of Edinburgh
a "walkabout among
je" in, apply enough,
treat this morning.
was some slight tension
verenthusiastic photo-
blocked the view of
and children who had
ing for hours in the
ne or two journalists
ked and jabbed with
s.
all, however, it was a
ig start to this jubilee
e to New Zealand and
e Queen's fifth visit
land and sixth to Aus-
Not many New Zea-
share the doubts of
ustralians about the
constitutional position,
al, she is considered to
useful role and to do
well.
New Zealand Herald
l in a loyal leading
his morning: "People
swelchingly acknow-
s role of the monarch
a world where so
ads of state must go
bind armour and under
guard, what a thing
e Queen can walk
ong her New Zealand
ith an absolute mini-
f and protection."
Queen, evidently re-
by a four-day cruise
l, stepped ashore this



The Queen meets young New Zealanders assembled at a racecourse on the outskirts of Auckland.

morning after the royal yacht
Britannia had anchored in
choppy waters off the naval
base across the bay from the
town centre. It immediately
began to rain.
There to greet her were Sir
Denis Blundell, the Governor-
General, a wholly uncontroversi-
al former New Zealand High
Commissioner in London, and
Mr Robert Muldoon, the power-
fully built and temperamentally
pugnacious Prime Minister.
A 54-minute military review
turned out to be unexpectedly
stirring. Bands of the three
services, with women, even a

female cornet player, and
Maori well represented in
their ranks, provided an out-
standingly professional blend of
music and marching. At the
end they took off their hats, in-
cluding the army hats known
from their shape as lemon-
squeezers, and gave the Queen
three heartfelt cheers. The sun
came out and the crowds began
to sing.
In his speech of welcome, Mr
Muldoon recalled that the first
royal visitor to New Zealand
was a sailor prince and Duke
of Edinburgh, Queen Victoria's
second son Alfred Ernest

Albert, who made three visits
within a few months in 1870 and
1871. He showed a deep and
practical interest in the Maori
people, Mr Muldoon said.
The Queen's subsequent
"walkabout" has become a
familiar feature of royal tours
since it was pioneered in Well-
ington in 1970. According to
the Queen's thrilled interlo-
cutors, mainly old ladies, ques-
tions were on the lines of: "Do
you like Auckland?" and
"Have you been doing your
shopping?"
After a civic luncheon, the
Queen and Prince Philip met

some of the 3,500 excited, sun-
tanned children at the lovely
Ellerslie racecourse, in Auck-
land's suburbia. Back on board
Britannia, they gave a press
reception, dinner party and
finally a larger reception. Mr
P. Page, the royal chef, Mr P.
Spencer, the pastry sous chef,
two senior cooks, another cook,
three dining room assistants and
a kitchen porter had been
brought from London to help.
Tomorrow the Queen will be
visiting towns within a 100-mile
radius of Auckland before
heading south on Thursday to
wards Wellington.

Violent results of New York's financial difficulties

When a journey on the subway can be an appointment with fear

From Peter Strafford

New York, Feb 22
The dangers of travelling in
New York's subway (Under-
ground) have been getting a
thorough airing over the past
few days. Figures have been
published to show that subway
crime is up, and some at least
of the blame is being put on
the reduction of police as a
result of the city's financial
crisis.
So far this year there have
been at least four rapes on the
subway, four robberies in which
large numbers of passengers
were forced to hand over their
wallets on pain of being beaten
or stabbed, and many instances
of assault, and purse-snatching.
All this serves as a reminder
that although crime in a big
city such as New York is no
longer given quite the publicity
it did some years ago, the crime
rate has continued to rise. In
the subway, some stretches have
become well known as danger
zones because there is a long
gap between stations, and time
for a gang, often of youths, to
work their way through a
carriage, robbing the passen-
gers.

As a general rule, it is not a
good idea—particularly for a
woman—to get into an empty
carriage late at night. Even if
another passenger comes in, he
may well be afraid to help
someone being attacked because
the average New Yorker is not
the most courageous of people.
Earlier this month Mr
Sanford Garelick, the head of
the Transit Police, who have
responsibility for the subway,
gave a warning that crime
would grow worse unless he
was given more men. He
claimed to have reduced crime
since taking over nearly two
years ago, but said he was now
stretched to the limit.
Since then, Mr Garelick's
claims have been thoroughly
scrutinized and found not to
stand up too well. One of his
main actions was to shift the
police away from the trains
and make them watch the
streets—with the result that
thousands of people were
arrested trying to slip through
without paying. However, in
view of the robbery and
violence on the trains, the wis-
dom of his policy has been
questioned.

In fact, a few days ago he
was ordered to switch his men
back to the trains by Mr
Harold Fisher, head of the
Transit Authority. At the same
time, Mr Fisher and Mr
Abraham Beame, the mayor,
issued an appeal to policemen
and firemen to travel to work
on the subway, wearing their
uniform as a deterrent to
crime.
This too seems a hardly
satisfactory solution since many
of them prefer to go by car.
The Daily News asked a
senior police officer what he
would do if his mother tele-
phoned him at eight o'clock one
evening and said she was com-
ing to see him by subway. His
reply, after a pause: "I would
tell her to stay right there and
I would be over to pick her
up."
Nobody denies the dangers
of subway travel, but possibly
they should not be given too
much emphasis. The New York
Post recently quoted "Transit
Authority" officials as saying
that the probability of being
murdered or raped in the sub-
way was considerably less than
in the streets above.

denial embassy iation

Feb 22.—The Soviet
day issued a fresh
American allegations
mysterious radiation
amed at the United
shassy here, and said
son level was "nothing
admir Gorcharov,
mentator, was replying
can allegations that
bruary last year the
building had been
to a barrage of micro-
iation.
an article in the
magazine Science
r Gorcharov said that
shown radiation levels
areness of the United
be well in excess of
nd the Moscow em-
lirmed reports here
ed the radiation with
surveillance equip-
euter.

More riots in Sierra Leone likely

More violence is expected in
Sierra Leone, according to
recent visitors and information
from Freetown. Public opinion
is quite against President Siaka
Stevens's decision to call a
general election as an answer
to riots and petitions.
It is estimated that 36 people
were killed in the riots in
Freetown and at least 100
wounded by gunfire from the
Internal Security Unit. They
included students and school-
children, demanding Dr
Stevens's resignation.
The security forces are
accused of pursuing the injured
to hospitals and interrupting
the supply of blood plasma.
The election is to be held in
May. The present Parliament
consists of members of the
ruling All-People's Congress
only and it is doubtful whether
any opposition candidates will
be allowed to stand.

It is Mrs Gandhi versus the rest

Delhi, Feb 22.—India's oppo-
sition parties have mounted a
unified challenge to Mrs In-
dira Gandhi, the Prime Minis-
ter, for next month's general
election.
Final nomination lists
showed today that in nearly
all constituencies, Mrs
Gandhi's supporters and allies
will face head-on fights against
single candidates backed by all
the main opposition groups.
Most of the 330 million
voters who go to the polls
from March 16 to 20 will be
presented with a simple
choice: for or against Mrs
Gandhi.
Because of the number of
parties and candidates fighting
previous elections, the ruling

Congress Party has won every
one since independence 30
years ago without ever captur-
ing a majority of the popular
vote.
The final list of candidates
showed today that there are
about 3,000 candidates for the
540 parliamentary seats, but
almost two thirds of them are
independents.
The electoral alliance among
Mrs Gandhi's opponents fol-
lows her proclamation of
emergency rule 18 months ago.
In some 400 seats, the party
contest will be a straight fight
between the Congress Party
and the Janata (People's)
party, a grouping of the four
main non-congress opposition
parties. It is supported by

Congress for Democracy, a
recent split-off from Mrs
Gandhi's supporters, and will,
in turn, support the Congress
for Democracy in 50 other
seats.
In most of the remaining
seats, both the Janata party
and Congress for Democracy
will support the anti-Moscow
Marxist Communist Party of
India or powerful regional
parties against the Congress
Party.
The Congress Party is con-
testing 492 seats itself and sup-
porting the Communist Party
of India and other smaller
groups in another 50 Congress
candidates have been declared
elected unopposed in two
seats.—Reuters.

ma begins search for er road to socialism

Feb 22
third congress of
ruling Socialist Pro-
Party (BSPP), which
ed here eight months
schedule, will have as
its main topics the
third four-year econo-
a. It will also discuss
vements to the party
ion.
rly holding of the con-
the result of Burma's
g political, economic

and social situation. It was felt
unwise to wait until October.
At last year's congress, Presi-
dent U Ne Win, the party
chairman, said the BSPP
should determine whether arti-
cle 135 of the party constitu-
tion should be amended. This
article says the congress has
the right to make amendments
to strengthen the (awak) (the
country's socialist programme).
The President said at the
time: "We do not look upon
our ideology as final and com-
plete."

Thai ex-leader 'does not want power'

Bangkok, Feb 22.—Field-
Marshal Thanom Kittikachorn,
the former Thai Military ruler,
said today that he had no
ambitions to regain power in
the country. "I will do every-
thing in my capacity as an
ordinary citizen to help main-
tain our main institutions—the
nation, religion and
monarchy," he told a press
conference.
Field-Marshal Thanom, who
left a Buddhist temple here
yesterday, after a stay of five
months, said he was willing to
give his support and advice to
anyone who supported "the
three principal institutions."
He fled to Singapore in
October, 1973. His return last
September to enter the priest-
hood set off student demon-
strations which culminated in
a military coup on October
6.—Reuters.

Offer of factory may halt slaughter of seals

From Our Correspondent
Geneva, Feb 22
A Swiss ecology campaigner,
Mr Franz Weber, leaves to-
morrow for St John's, New-
foundland, to make the case for
the Green Peace Foundation,
a conservation group, will attempt
to stop the hunters from club-
bing the seals to death.
The foundation that carries
his name is prepared to set up
a synthetic fur factory in New-
foundland, to make the sealers
outlets for its production. If
professional hunters among the
fishermen will stop the
slaughter of the baby seals
which threatens the extirpation
of the species. The hunting
season opens on March 12.
By the sale of liferize baby
seals in toy shops, the founda-
tion has raised more than 1m
Swiss francs (£280,000). It is
campaigning in West Germany,
the main market for sealskin, to

persuade people to change their
dress tastes.
Arctic protest: British animal
lovers will fly to the Arctic to
try to save some of the baby
seals. Twenty-four members of
the Green Peace Foundation,
a conservation group, will attempt
to stop the hunters from club-
bing the seals to death.
Mr Alan Thornton, a spokes-
man for the foundation, said
yesterday: "This season more
than 185,000 seals will be
brutally slaughtered, 15,000 seal
pups a day. If the killing is
allowed to go on these seals
will be extinct within 10 years."
Last year thousands of people
donated cash to send the Cana-
dian-based Green Peace mem-
bers to the Arctic. They stood
in front of the hunters' shops,
tried to talk to them, then put
themselves between the hunters
and the seals.

unsel clash at Tokyo bribes trial

Feb 22.—The presid-
ent at the Lockheed tri-
al today rejected the
it by Kakuei Tanaka,
mer Prime Minister,
co-defendants that large
the prosecution's cast
gally inadmissible.
Mr representing Mr
Toshio Enomoto, his
y, and three officials
Marubeni Corporation
which the bribes were
to have been
led—Hiro
ru Okabe and Hiroshi
for a revision or
on of the prosecution's

exchange and trade control
laws.
Mr Tanaka is accused of
having accepted a 500m yen
(£1m) pay-off to help to sell
the Lockheed Tristar to All
Nippon Airways, while he
in office between 1973 and
1974.
The prosecution said today
that it would present as evi-
dence sworn statements by Mr
Carl Koichian, former vice
chairman of Lockheed, and
two former company officials,
Mr John Clutter and Mr A. H.
Ehott.
Mr Tanaka's counsel told the
court today: "All allegations
made by the prosecution in its
opening statement are contrary
to the truth and we refute
them completely."

The prosecution had alleged
that Mr Tanaka replied *gossu*
hossha (OK, OK) when asked
by executives of the Marubeni
Corporation, Lockheed's
former Japanese agent, to
push the sale of Lockheed
Tristars to the airline which
eventually bought 21 of them.
Counsel for the three former
Marubeni officials said that
statements by their clients had
been used as evidence in the
prosecution's opening submis-
sion, although statements were
not supported to be introduced
until after the examination of
other evidence.
The trial resumes on March
2 and is expected to last at
least three years.—Reuters and
Agence France-Presse.

Pastor among 10 arrested in South Korea

Seoul, Feb 22.—The South
Korean police today announced
the arrest of 10 persons, includ-
ing two journalists and a
church pastor, on charges of
violating the emergency decree
banning anti-government activi-
ties.
Mr Yoo Kun Soo, the former
managing editor of the now
defunct provincial *Taegu Daily*
News, Mr Yoon Dai Jong, a
reporter on *Kyungnyang*, a
Seoul daily, and Pastor Kang
Kong Ik, of the Korean Jehovah's
Church, were among those
arrested.
They were said to have fabri-
cated and disseminated false
rumours

Mr Ehrlichman loses plea to Supreme Court

Washington, Feb 22.—The
Supreme Court refused today to
review Mr John Ehrlichman's
conviction of conspiracy and
perjury in connection with the
1971 burglary of the office of
Mr Daniel Ellsberg's psychia-
trist.
The court let stand a decision
by the Circuit Court of
Appeals in Washington that Mr
Ehrlichman, a senior White
House aide under President
Nixon, was rightly convicted.
Mr Ehrlichman told the
judges that the break-in "was
conducted for the purpose of
gathering foreign intelligence
information" and therefore was
legal.—AP.

Republican constitution adopted in Afghanistan

Kabul, Feb 22.—The Grand
Assembly (Loya-Jirga) of
Afghan tribes has adopted
the Afghan Republic's first con-
stitution but which many ob-
servers consider to be less liberal
than the old Royal Constitution.
The assembly, part nominated
by the Government, part by
popular assemblies, made few
alterations to the draft consti-
tution submitted to it on Jan-
uary 31 by President Daud. The
text adopted stipulates a strong
executive embodied in the Pre-
sident and two assemblies with
limited powers.
President Daud will have the
right to appoint more repre-
sentatives to the Loya-Jirga
than King Zahir Shah under
the 1964 constitution.
The first legislative elections
will not be held before 1979, so
between now and then the pre-
sent Government will deal with
national affairs. The Loya-

Quebec Premier 'not criminally to blame' for death

Montreal, Feb 22.—A cor-
oner has ruled that Mr René
Levesque, the Quebec Prime
Minister, was not criminally
responsible for killing a pedes-
trian while driving before
dawn here on February 6.
Mr Maurice Laniel said no
public inquest would be held
as the victim, Mr Edgar Trot-
tier, aged 62, was "unavoid-
ably killed."
The coroner said Mr Trot-
tier's blood alcohol level at
death was 0.225 per cent.
Breath analysis tests for
drivers usually set 0.08 per
cent as the maximum allowable
level.
Officials at Queen Mary
Veterans' Hospital have said
that less than half an hour
before the accident, they called
police to evict Mr Trottier
because he was drunk and was
causing a disturbance.—Reuters.

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SWITZERLAND

second only to one's own land

have big party

My Decent Fellow is a dashed good sort

el Seely, the auto-pilot Fellow, the Express Hurdle, a fine of 20 for the yellow Pages. Scampton back on Saturday. Fellow returned from a fresh and well after the in the morning. Fellow returned from a fresh and well after the in the morning. Fellow returned from a fresh and well after the in the morning.

quent victories have resulted in recent substantial backing for Cheltenham. There is a persistent rumour that Anthony, a useful animal of the flat, who scored over hurdles at the first time of asking at Kempton, may be the most strongly recommended of two Revolution candidates on the day itself. Ladybrook's, who are assumed to be the best of the two, are Haydock, make Sheilahn their favourite at 7-2. They may go 7-1. At Kempton, the 12-1. At Kempton, the 12-1.

to ride Lanzarote at Cheltenham. Pendlis' intended Gold Cup partner, Bob Davies, may be given the mount on Saturday. The scheduled meeting at the 102nd annual of the present season after the abandonment of Newton Abbot, at 9 am yesterday, leaving Catterick Bridge as the only meeting. There will be an interval at Warwick at 10 am this morning to watch the 10 am this morning to watch the 10 am this morning.

Cricket Cope leaves five batsmen in a spin

Galle, Feb 22.—Any chance of a result in MCC's two-day match here against Sri Lanka cricket Board President's XI on Saturday was ended by a rainstorm. The match was abandoned after 15 minutes of play. The Sri Lanka team batted for all but 15 minutes of the opening day. In just over an hour, before the close of the MCC opening batsmen, Amis and Broadbent, failed to score a run in reply to the President's XI first innings total of 238.

Turner involved in bitter dispute

Christchurch, Feb 22.—The New Zealand captain Glenn Turner, was involved in a bitter dispute after surviving a confident appeal for a catch in the slips on the fourth day of the first Test match against Australia here today. With five minutes of play remaining, Turner appeared to edge a ball from Lillee to McCooker at second slip. Turner stood his ground while the two umpires, who said later they were unimpressed, conferred before rejecting Lillee's confident appeal. The Australians were disgusted by the decision, but it enabled New Zealand to reach 12 for no wicket in their second innings, leaving them with a target of 338 for victory on the final day tomorrow. Australia batted for about 40 minutes before close of play after gaining a first innings lead of 155.

rick Bridge programme

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Spring bonus for National Hunt racing

National Hunt racing is to receive a spring bonus. The Levy Board announced yesterday that they will finance an extra 18 jump meetings during April, May and June. The Levy Board chairman, Sir John Wooters, said: "We are delighted to hear the news. The owners have been through the worst of the weather situation, but news of more meetings can only be good for everyone in racing." The full list of extra fixtures is: April 1, Ascot; April 5, Sandown; April 15, Ascot; April 20, Sandown; April 25, Sandown; April 30, Sandown; May 5, Sandown; May 10, Sandown; May 15, Sandown; May 20, Sandown; May 25, Sandown; May 30, Sandown; June 5, Sandown; June 10, Sandown; June 15, Sandown; June 20, Sandown; June 25, Sandown; June 30, Sandown.

More trouble for Pakistan was to follow

Brigitown, Barbados, Feb 22.—Pakistan has scored 315 for six wickets at lunch in their second innings of the fourth day of the first Test match against West Indies here today and shortly after resumption of play had lost another wicket to be seven down for 181. The young Guyanese fast bowler Colin Croft, took two quick wickets to have Pakistan in trouble at the start of the day. Croft, who is the son of the late opening batsman, Sult Mohiuddin, and Majid Khan, is Pakistan slumped to 10 for two wickets in their second innings after leading by only 14 runs on first innings. The first goal to be scored, for Guyana, was by a local player, Majid Khan, who scored a century. The match was abandoned after 15 minutes of play.

Pakistan in trouble as Croft strikes again

Brigitown, Barbados, Feb 22.—Pakistan's cricketers Wazir Zahir and Zahir Abbas, were rescued from dropping out of the match after scoring into difficulties while swimming off their hotel here yesterday. Neither player suffered after a fall from the diving board. The match was abandoned after 15 minutes of play.

Depreciation in house value: compensation claim fails

Lord Justice Megaw, Lord Justice Lawton and Lord Justice Goff. The claimant, a Mrs. J. D. Megaw, claimed compensation for depreciation in the value of her house. The court found that the claimant's claim was not valid.

Step-parents: adoption or custody?

In re S (Infants). The court considered the rights of step-parents in relation to adoption and custody. The court found that step-parents have no automatic right to custody or adoption.

Ten Up target

Gold Cup winner, Ten Up, is almost certain to miss the big Cheltenham event in favour of the 2 Mile Champion Steeplechase.

Tenure clause not binding on farmer

Johnson and Another v Morton. The court considered the binding nature of a tenure clause on a farmer. The court found that the clause was not binding.

University news

Newcastle Professor Roy Storer, head of the Department of Prosthodontics, has been appointed dean of dentistry for five years from October 1 on the retirement of Professor Dr J. M. Murray, BDS, MSc, PhD (Leeds) has been appointed to the chair of child dental health from October 1 on the retirement of Professor G. E. M. Hallett. Other appointments include: Lecturer: J. M. Roy, MA (Oxon), MA (Edin), geography; A. D. Collier, BA (Edin), architecture.

Charter clause still valid

Canarias SA v. Lord Justice Megaw, Lord Justice Lawton and Lord Justice Goff. The claimant, Canarias SA, claimed compensation for depreciation in the value of its house. The court found that the claimant's claim was not valid.

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3p off the price of gold.



47^{*}p.

^{*}3p off recommended price. Stocks are, or shortly will be, available in all areas.

MIDDLE TAR As defined by H.M. Government.
EVERY PACKET CARRIES A GOVERNMENT HEALTH WARNING.

SFR4

The strategy to beat ever-rising food prices

Cheap food in Britain is a thing of the past and, without the politically unlikely expedient of rationing, will remain so. The economic implications of this make a sound strategy of home food production imperative.

The current policies of agriculture, both here and in the rest of the world, are concerned with the short term issues, and the long term adjustments are made to manage temporary surpluses arising from price fluctuations. Few official policy statements look more than five years ahead, and even a very short period which is to adjust the management of a single farm, let alone carry out any programme of research or research to meet new consumer needs.

Conscious of this, a small group, drawn from a wide spectrum of agricultural activity, practical, advisory, financial and educational, met in Cambridge in 1976, to look for some consensus on long-term strategy. While we were there, there was considerable agreement.

In the long run, we believe, food surpluses are bound to cost us in real terms, even if there may be periods of temporary surplus (such as appears to be building up in grain on world markets). For many commodities, export surpluses are confined to North America and Australia, and there are new bidders better able to pay for them than ourselves. Continued increase of world population also presses on supplies which inevitably fluctuate with the weather. Hence there is a case for increased self-sufficiency as a security measure.

Most important of the limiting factors in expansion is the land available. The price of agricultural land in Britain is now too high to be served by food production at the average level, a sign that land scarcity is already upon us. Proposals recently put forward in a report from the Centre for Agricultural Strategy at Reading for a reform of planning procedures, giving precedence to agriculture and forestry, are the minimum necessary.

To ensure that rural land is not unnecessarily transferred to urban uses and that it is not used for anything other than food production, and also that recreation and nature conservation needs are catered for, a statutory land commission, charged with conservation and land use decisions, is required.

How far current levels of taxation in the United Kingdom are a deterrent to new investment for increased production is a matter of some dispute; the problem is not confined to agriculture. Taxation of certain land in fact has been a potent instrument of policy; it can, for instance, be used to encourage multiple land use or to discriminate in favour of farming systems which further the aims of national policy.

But the case for a new basic structure of the industry without offering any new framework for its operation. A mere drift towards socialization of land, without consideration of its subsequent management, could be disastrous for the nation's food supply.

To some extent, high land prices and high rents have been a stimulus to higher production. United Kingdom productivity in agriculture has risen impressively over the past 25 years, consistently outperforming the rest of the

J. B. Hutchinson
The author was previously Professor of Agriculture at Cambridge University.

Many will die from cold this winter

At a conservative estimate 700,000 pensioners in the United Kingdom risk "hypothermia" every winter, and many don't just risk it—they die. Cold may kill 45,000 old people this winter, and that is if the weather is mild. Higher heating costs and colder weather increase the threat and the toll could rise to 81,000 extra deaths.

Body temperature drops dangerously below the minimum regarded as safe by the Department of Health. Living in constant cold, as they often do, it creeps up unnoticed by many old people until too late.

Old people in this grave risk need Day Centres. Here they find more than warmth: the joy of friendship instead of loneliness, the chance of a good hot meal at low cost, and the cheerfulness that comes from mixing with others.

Your goodwill gift can generate work like this: More Day Centres are needed: £10 provides equipment. £150 perpetuates a loved name on the Dedication Plaque of a centre it helps start.

Day Hospitals are an urgent need. They enable old people to get treatment, yet lead an active life. Doctors urge us to help start such work.

Help the Aged achieves a great deal with every £ donated, thanks to dedicated volunteers. Consider how a legacy can help continue your goodwill.

If you have a warm home and something to be thankful for, send your goodwill gift quickly. Your donation is desperately needed to help old people. So please use the FREEPOST facility and address your gift to: Hon. Treasurer, The Rt. Hon. Lord Maybray-King, Help the Aged, Room 16, FREEPOST 37, LONDON W1E 6UZ. (No stamp needed).

* Please let us know if you would like your gift used for a particular purpose.

A nation for all that, even if it is just a dot on the map

Bernard Levin



British police, armed with suitcases, head for patrol duties on the sunny shores of Anguilla after the British invasion.

When the Government tells a group of people dependent upon it that there is going to be no "sell-out" of their interests, we may be reasonably confident that a sell-out has been decided on in principle, and when they are in addition promised that nothing will be done "behind their back", it can be taken as certain that the method by which the sell-out will be effected has already been devised in outline, and that a subcommittee of officials in the appropriate ministry is engaged upon working out the details. (In any case, prominent insurers whom I have consulted are unanimously of the opinion that the ultimate condition of one who is sold out behind his back is in no way different from that of one who undergoes the experience face foremost.)

Thus it is with the Falkland Islands, Las Islas Malvinas, as we shall no doubt shortly be learning to call them. Yet it is not the fate of the islands and their inhabitants that is my theme this morning, though my theme takes its key from them. Certainly the Falklanders want to remain British, and certainly there is much force in their argument that if Argentina wishes to overturn their claim to sovereignty, she should be allowed to do so. It is not the fate of the islands and their inhabitants that is my theme this morning, though my theme takes its key from them.

What I would like us to contemplate together is, first, the curious and sad situation in which so many day remnants of empire find themselves, and second (much more significant) the extraordinary and enduring power of nationalist feeling, a rock on which so many of the plans of the more dilly-minded arrangers of history and geography have foundered.

All round the globe, there are places no bigger than a man's hand, which used to be governed, in the days of the British Empire, as part of larger administrative units from

which they might be separated by very great distances. Now they are independent, but there is no possible way in which they can be self-supporting; nor, of course, is there any way in which they could successfully resist serious external aggression or even determined internal subversion. Lacking both economic reality and physical power, they are doomed forever to inhabit a limbo in which their status can never be properly defined nor their existence put upon any kind of stable footing.

It is not their fault. When the great trail of empire went scotching through the seas, those in charge of the fishing could hardly be expected to foresee what the world would be like towards the end of the twentieth century, or how it would affect some of the catch. The fact remains, however, that the minnows, having been landed, cannot simply be thrown back into the sea to fend for themselves, nor can they be left gasping on shore.

But the point I am making is that nothing in their situation diminishes in the slightest their feeling of their own identity, nor their determination to retain it. It is obvious that if the Argentinians could stop killing one another long enough to mount an expeditionary force, they could seize the Falkland Islands before the appropriate Government spokesmen in London had finished preparing a promise that the islanders, as British subjects, would be entitled to the full support of the Mother Country, which support, however, would not for technical reasons, actually be forthcoming. Yet the knowledge does not in any way inhibit the Falklanders' behaviour, determination or feelings.

This truth may be seen at its clearest in the British West Indies. That the future of this chain of islands, few of which can ever be truly independent, must lie in a Federation was obvious to any serious observer of the area, whether from outside or inside. And indeed, such a Federation was set up, and launched on its way into the future with the applause of all men of goodwill: what is more, it had some of the wisest and best of West Indian leaders

at its helm. Yet Nineveh and Tyre are not more extinct than the Federation of the West Indies, and since it was dissolved the area has become more fissiparous, not less. After all, the Federation contained

both Jamaica and Trinidad, by far the largest and strongest of the former British possessions in the area: since then, even the micro-Federation of St Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla (are there London bobbies, sole reminders of the stirring exploits of Sir Harold Drake-Wilson, still patrolling those golden sands?) has demonstrated that no one of its constituent parts is willing to remain associated with any other; hardly a Leeward Island will lie down with a Windward, and Montserrat refused to be seen speaking to either, choosing to remain a Crown Colony.

I do not come to mock. On the contrary, I come to mark with reverence the feeling of a people that they are a people, however absurd their claims on the definition may seem to others. It is, after all, this attitude of men to such things that makes me so certain that the last and cruellest of all the world's colonial powers cannot continue for ever to hold down hundreds of millions of subjects in the hope that they will forget their national identity. Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia and the rest show no sign of abandoning their claims to independence and nationhood; on the contrary, those claims grow stronger and greater, and policy, born of all they face, made stronger and richer by the claims of those stifled nations within the borders of the imperial power, so that the voice of the Ukraine is only the loudest of those inside the Soviet Union now arguing more and more insistently that they be allowed to breathe.

Whence comes this feeling of belonging to a place and a people, and whence its strength? It is not racial, though many have thought it so; for it usually becomes more intense the more narrowly defined it is, so that even within a nation there may be a thousand local pride based upon a county, a district, a village. It is inextricably inter-

woven with the history of the object of the affection; it is not purely a his phenomenon, either. A need have nothing to do the qualities of the entity and identified with, also would so many strapping the faces of others for honour of the Gorbals?

I suppose it is, in the based on the need of all beings to be rooted, to str one place, to be conscious their own separate existence. We are all emotional big conductors, and through flow into the earth for mysterious as they are. I ful. But it is into the that they flow, and some somehow, we all have a come Luther: here stand can no other.

Chesterton wrote a about men who were ill die for Nothing. Hill extreme position, no doubt only by a small degree extreme than the willingness men throughout history. —and, more important, —for we speak of ground in the numbers will not be cause. The age-old dream "the Parliament of man federation of the world" far from being realised as and is unlikely ever to be so. What is it, then, that the tearful Captain Morris before Harfleur demonstrating that the m quality of the Irish goes rather further than the "Theatre", but he is not a rascal. But though we smile at Captain Macmorris, he is better guard our for when we speak of his n his nation's honour, that impugner "ish a villain, a bastard, and a knave, a rascal". But though we smile at Captain Macmorris, he is better guard our for when we speak of his n his nation's honour, that impugner "ish a villain, a bastard, and a knave, a rascal". But though we smile at Captain Macmorris, he is better guard our for when we speak of his n his nation's honour, that impugner "ish a villain, a bastard, and a knave, a rascal".

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Can the EEC unite to meet the challenge of poorer nations?

An uneasy calm has settled over international relations between the world's industrialised nations and the Third World. This will particularly be the case with the European Community, whose divisions over trade and aid with the developing countries are no less wide than on numerous other issues that defy common agreement between the Nine.

Yet the future of the European Community, more than other industrialised nations, is bound up with the developing world. Nearly half of EEC imports come from this southern block of countries, which in turn take about one-third of all its exports.

Furthermore, a very large proportion of the migrant workers in the European Community are from the southern block, with their families, about 12 million—come from the poor countries around the Mediterranean seaboard.

In spite of this manifest interdependence, nothing approaching an integrated and harmonised policy towards the Third World exists within the EEC. Indeed, on the issues that directly impinge on the developing countries—finance, trade, agriculture, employment, industry and migration—the external policies of the EEC have frequently been the hapless by-product of domestic requirements. The last three traumatic years has produced only ad hoc responses to the mounting pressures of the Third World for changes in the existing economic order.

A more considered response is inhibited both by the separation of the various aspects of Third World-EEC relations among the Brussels Directorates, and the differences of philosophy that exists between the Nine over how to tackle world poverty.

The Danes, for example have their doubts about "food aid"; the West Germans about almost all kinds of aid; the British and the Dutch want more for the very poorest of the developing countries who do not have a special relationship with the EEC under the Lomé Convention; while the French, Belgians and Italians caution that aid should not be spread too thinly.

This discord provides the theme of a pamphlet published yesterday which argues that if the EEC is to rise to the situation and provide the visionary influence on international economic relations that history has made possible and self-interest demands, the Nine must forge a unified, global strategy to deal with world poverty.

The pamphlet is the latest contribution to the world poverty debate from Oxfam's two-year-old Public Affairs Unit, the aid agency's political arm. The co-authors, Mr Robin Sharp, head of the unit and a former journalist, and Claire Whitmore, another PAU staff member, see the challenge presented by under development in Africa, Asia and Latin America as one of the most important issues facing con-

temporary Europe. The prime requirements now, they insist, must be a "coherent global strategy to which all policies and programmes can be made to conform".

The core of any such strategy must inevitably be trade. For trade is the key to economic development, and is central to the demands of the Third World for a new international economic order as enunciated at the seventh special session of the United Nations in September, 1975.

In fact, the Community has already taken an important first step in support of developing countries with the signing, in February, 1975, of the Lomé Convention, linking the nine European states with 46 African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) nations (the former French and British colonies). The convention is an acknowledgement of the EEC's responsibilities. Moreover, it shows that a large heterogeneous group of developing nations could bargain cohesively and successfully with a group of wealthy states to regulate their mutual economic relations (other developing countries have subsequently joined).

A five-year agreement, the Lomé Convention provides most African states south of the Sahara, most of the Caribbean archipelago, and the vast majority of the Pacific with free access for 99.2 per cent of their exports to the European Community.

At the heart of the Lomé Convention is its scheme to

stabilise the export earnings of the ACP states on a range of products by guaranteeing them a minimum price to market fluctuations. Known as "Stabex", the scheme covers agricultural raw materials and iron ore and provides that if a country's earnings on any of these products falls significantly below the average of the four preceding years, the shortfall is met by a loan or grant.

This year the Brussels Commission is expected to set up a small internal planning group to consider the shape of a new convention when the present one expires in 1980. This, the Oxfam pamphlet argues, provides the opportunity for the EEC to shift towards a global development policy, simultaneously seeking to broaden the Stabex system, and pressing other industrialised countries to participate.

But trade is closely related to other Community activities. It bears directly on the Common Agricultural Policy where fundamental changes are needed to take account of wider food problems that beset much of the earth. Industrial policy, too, has important contributions to make in restructuring or fading out those older, uneconomic sectors that can no longer compete fairly in the face of the expanding potential of the developing countries. The Community has an assortment of industrial programmes, separately administered by four funds and a bank.

The authors of the Oxfam pamphlet believe that there is

a compelling case for bringing these institutions together under a single administrative umbrella to help bring the necessary industrial restructuring and ensure the continuity of all Community disbursements.

Equally, foreign aid needs to be coordinated so that it forms the broad object of only about a fifth of the aid budgets of the Community member states is channelled through the European Development Fund. And, of course, sums given in aid fall far short of what is needed to meet some of the problems.

Only the Netherlands and Community countries currently accept the target of allocating of gross national product to foreign aid. At the extreme is Italy, providing 0.1 per cent of gross national product.

At the same time, and as tightly bound up with the strands of EEC-Third World relations is the issue of migration, as economic and social pressures threaten to swamp the labour market of the European life.

It is the formidable task of unifying and interlocking Community policy on these complex of interrelated problems that the team of Brussels Commissioners, headed by Mr Jenkins.

PROUS NEGOTIATIONS

Below decks Ted Hill, master brushmaker, demonstrates his art. The best hair for artists' brushes, he says, comes from the bristles of the kolinsky, a kind of wild cat trapped in Siberia. He supplies are becoming so scarce, and that the Russians have taken to trapping animals in the wilderness, when the tips of the brush hairs are trimmed from the heads of the brush.

Falling kolinsky prices in the erosion of hairs are trimmed from the heads of the brush. The tips of the brush hairs are trimmed from the heads of the brush. The tips of the brush hairs are trimmed from the heads of the brush. The tips of the brush hairs are trimmed from the heads of the brush.

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The Times Diary

England the home of gastronomy

light was the first course, a dish of buttered mussels taken from a 14th century recipe which begins: "Take mussels and sit them and take for out the shell." The main dish of Ayton chicken, which the author borrowed from one of her ancestors, was considered pleasant if dull, but the Bombardier Apples, first written down by Mrs Blencowe in 1694, were well received.

Fay Maschler, the restaurant writer of the *Evening Standard*, who told me that she never eats out in her spare time, gave the meal full marks, with a rosette for the mussels. The food writer of the *Guardian* sniffed the 19th century Negrita and declared: "Chocolate mousse." His wife being away, my reporter went home for dinner and opened a tin of beans.

Tom Jackson, the general secretary of the Union of Post Office Workers, took to the pulpit yesterday. He was engaged in a lunch-time dialogue with the Bishop of Stepney, Trevor Huddleston, at St Mary-le-Bow. The bishop, a professing Christian socialist and avowed supporter of the intended boycott of South African mail, declared: "Chocolate mousse."

His wife being away, my reporter went home for dinner and opened a tin of beans.

bowler, later a tribby, but he always looked rather fussy. Now the Prudential Assurance Company say they are anxious to cast off his "bicycle clips image" once and for all.

Yesterday they were showing off new recruitment film, aimed, it must be admitted, at attracting clerical staff rather than the agents for the field force on whom the man from the Pru was based. They had a standard of industry employ 10,000 agents, and that 90 per cent of them nowadays own cars.

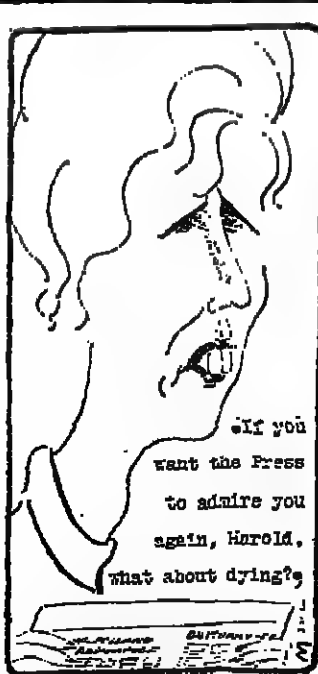
None the less the film, directed by James Hill who made *Born Free*, features an archetypal man from the Pru, pushing his bike round in the pouring rain to exhort housewives in the depression to "put something aside for a rainy day".

If the portrayal is a convincing one, it is because men and women from the Prudential have a thespian tradition stretching back a century. Outside the theatre where the film was shown, wooden tablets, which would serve in lesser companies to war memorials, commemorate the names of shows their dramatic society has performed since 1875.

All the characters in the film are played by staff members and the result, says Till prudently, "is a nice little film—better at any rate than *Born Free*".

Palatable

There is an informative and colourful exhibition aboard the Tattershall Castle, a muddle-cruiser moored by the Embankment which serves as an art gallery. It is devoted to artists' materials through the ages. Did you know, for example, that artists in the past went to work with cheese,



Below decks Ted Hill, master brushmaker, demonstrates his art.

The best hair for artists' brushes, he says, comes from the bristles of the kolinsky, a kind of wild cat trapped in Siberia. He supplies are becoming so scarce, and that the Russians have taken to trapping animals in the wilderness, when the tips of the brush hairs are trimmed from the heads of the brush.

Falling kolinsky prices in the erosion of hairs are trimmed from the heads of the brush. The tips of the brush hairs are trimmed from the heads of the brush. The tips of the brush hairs are trimmed from the heads of the brush.

It is the formidable task of unifying and interlocking Community policy on these complex of interrelated problems that the team of Brussels Commissioners, headed by Mr Jenkins.

It is the formidable task of unifying and interlocking Community policy on these complex of interrelated problems that the team of Brussels Commissioners, headed by Mr Jenkins.

Best choice

The playwright Kieran Tunney has had considerable success in the Broadway in 1959 with *God and Kate Murphy*, about a young Irish lad who is forced into the priesthood when all he wants to do is play football, hoping that his play may be turned into a film. The one condition: the American backers want George Best to play the lead.

Tunney is bemused by request, and has dispatched an agent to Fulham to make sure that the wayward genius has never been seen. Best, although I understand plays football with an innately theatrical and moves like ballet dancer," said Tunney, is sceptical about the idea. It is grudgingly admitted: "Some of these eccentrics, American casting ideas come from a priest."

The part in the original production was taken by Larry Hagman, son of Mary Martin, who is a footballer and a very European.

PH



CALLAGHAN'S STRATEGY

Minister is not an enigma. He does not feel the need to explain his strategy. He would make it more difficult to follow than a year in his appointments. He has taken a long time to restore the balance between practical and idealistic considerations.

Callaghan is in the midst of a Labour Party. He is prepared to be the character of the Labour Party where it is necessary to order to maintain unity. Mr Callaghan's strategy is to be a man of the left. He is not a man of the right. He is not a man of the middle. He is a man of the left.

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GEROUS NEGOTIATION

that negotiations between the Government and the Falkland Islands are in progress, has some disturbing elements.

The British Government is faced with a dilemma. The Falkland Islands are a British possession. They are not a British colony. They are not a British territory. They are a British possession. They are not a British colony. They are not a British territory. They are a British possession.

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No Treasury 'plot' on incomes policy

From Professor Lord Kaldor, FBA
Sir, Since regular civil servants cannot reply, may I comment on the revelations of a "Treasury plot" contained in Mr Haines's book, together with the subsequent correspondence and your editorial comment.

I was a full-time adviser to Mr Healey in the Treasury throughout 1975 and up to the end of July 1976. During that period I had access to all important policy papers and was a member of the top policy committee of officials chaired by the Permanent Secretary. I also attended most of the important meetings of Treasury officials with the Chancellor when strategic issues of policy were discussed.

I am confident that the accusation that the Treasury attempted to "bribe" the Cabinet into a statutory incomes policy in January 1976 is a baseless foundation. The case for a statutory incomes policy (in the eventuality of failure to reach agreement on a voluntary policy) was put to the Cabinet by the Chancellor of the Exchequer after being advised by his officials in a memorandum.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS KALDOR,
King's College,
Cambridge,
February 19

From Professor L. S. Pressnell
Sir, Stronger evidence than Mr Ham offers in his letter (February 18), would be required to substantiate his reckless assertions about the alleged power and allegedly debased standards of civil servants. Even less satisfactory than his invective and title-tattle is his Churchillian gobble from Treasury Papers of 1973, to which he surprisingly has not given a "careful reading".

Mr Ham is quite simply wrong to cite Mr Churchill's unsuccessful battle, as Chancellor, over the gold standard in 1925 as a clear case of even a strong minister being politically out-manoeuvred and isolated by his officials, and the fact that he was not yet sufficiently vile, we are reassured, for him to have been "tricked". Mr Ham's gobble (I am sorry to say) comes from a lengthy paper following an elaborate interchange ("Mr Churchill's Excesses") between the Chancellor and the Governor of the Bank of England. Mr Churchill confessed that, though deploring the policy, he could offer no other way. There were to be further discussions before the policy was finally settled.

Like most who have looked at the matter, Mr Ham evidently regards the decision to return to the gold standard with an over-valued pound. Hindsight seems to have tempted him, however, like others before, to infer that the decision was made and imposed upon Churchill by a narrow group of civil servants, and that it was not. With so many documents now available, as well as outstanding specialist studies, which Mr Ham neglects, quasi-conspiracy theories about the great disaster of 1925 are irrelevant.

From the announcement in 1918 the gold standard policy had the enthusiastic support of politicians and governments of all three major parties. It was widely approved abroad. The gold standard was regarded as the best means to sustain imperial economic links. It was also a means to ensure that the left were in a minority, in which many disagreed less with the policy than with its timing. The brilliant J. M. Keynes, a rare dissenter to be intellectually coherent, had yet to work out a revisionist economic strategy, and was not ready to understand a convincing alternative. In truth, the failure of the limited opposition to the gold standard in 1925 requires no search for a narrow clique of unscrupulous officials; rather, it was the result of a compellingly wrong economic and political orthodoxy of the day.

Yours sincerely,
L. S. PRESSNELL,
Lower Farm Road,
Egham,
Surrey.

The Turner Bequest

From the Chairman of The Turner Society
Sir, Turner's Will documents are a veritable labyrinth of obscure Victorian equity drafting and Mr Butler (The Times, February 19) is an erudite and expert guide. Before, however, following Mr Butler into the labyrinth, we might care to read a very simple statement of the position by Lord St Leonards.

Indeed, it is incumbent on a solicitor, when confronted with an obscure legal document, to seek advice, by recourse to the courts to obtain the pronouncement of a judge. And what more authoritative judge could be found than a Lord Chancellor and what more expert Lord Chancellor than Lord St Leonards, held to be the greatest equity draftsman of the age?

Lord St Leonards said that he had laboured long and earnestly over the Will documents and in his view Turner's wishes for the Bequest could be shown (a) all together (b) in a separate gallery (c) to be known as "Turner's Gallery". And in the opinion of many people inside or out of the Turner Society, no sincere attempt has ever been made to do just this.

The present availability of Somerset House, now so beautifully restored by the Department of the Environment, at last offers the possibility of finding a worthy home for the Bequest and it is greatly to be hoped that pettingflog legal quibbles or far-fetched technical criteria will not be used to block yet again our attempts to give Turner elementary justice. Yours etc,
J. ALLAN PEARCE,
The Chairman, The Turner Society,
The Athenaeum,
Pall Mall.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The strain on Ministers

From Mr Arthur Silkin

Sir, The tragic death of Anthony Crosland has led to a good deal of heart searching as to how the considerable load of work that falls to Cabinet Ministers can be reduced to reasonable proportions and Mrs Shirley Williams has made a number of suggestions to this end in the BBC programme *The World This Week*.

It is time to put forward a more radical suggestion which I believe merits consideration. It is that we adopt the system introduced by General de Gaulle under the French Fifth Republic whereby Cabinet Ministers are required to vacate their parliamentary seats on appointment to the Cabinet; this would relieve them both of the necessity to act as lobby fodder for their Whips—a heavy enough burden when the House of Commons sits until only 10 pm but a really crushing one when, as so frequently happens nowadays, there are all night sittings—and of the need to spend a substantial proportion of their time on constituency business.

Moreover, this reform would itself remove one of the main arguments against the suggestion that the House of Commons should work on a rota basis, namely that Ministers need to be at their departmental desks during the morning. Finally, if they were not saddled with the responsibilities of members of Parliament as well as ministers, they would have more time to devote both to their departmental work and to briefing themselves on Cabinet and Cabinet Committee issues which fall outside their departmental responsibilities.

Such a reform raises a number of problems. Should Cabinet Ministers be replaced as members of Parliament by co-opted members of their own party? This might well be objected to on the ground that these "replacement" MPs were not elected by their constituents. Alternatively, should appointments of Cabinet Ministers be followed in each case by a by-election? This would be costly and might discourage a Prime Minister with a precarious majority from risking the loss of a seat by appointing a member from a marginal constituency to a Cabinet post. Again, what procedure could be introduced to enable Cabinet Ministers who had resigned or been dismissed from office to return to the House of Commons?

A partial solution to these difficulties might well be the simultaneous introduction of a system of electoral reform, based, at any rate in part, on proportional representation. In any event, whatever the difficulties may be, they are surely

not so great as to preclude serious study being given to an innovation which would so manifestly reduce the burden on Cabinet Ministers. Yours faithfully,
ARTHUR SILKIN,
33 Woodbrook Road, SW16.

From Mr Peter Ross, QC, MP for Dover and Deal (Conservative)

Sir, Of course Mrs Shirley Williams has a point when she says that Ministers—and on a lesser degree Members of Parliament—are over-worked.

Are we, however, to infer from her statement that, in the Cabinets of which she has been a member, she has been a vocal opponent of the overloading of the legislative programme which has been such a consistent feature of the present and past three Sessions? Would she, in fact, support a reversion to the former practice of starting the Parliamentary Session in February? And will she resolutely oppose the abolition of the House of Lords which, as a revising Chamber, relieves some of the burden on the House of Commons? Yours faithfully,
PETER ROSS,
House of Commons.

From Mr James Beattie

Sir, The tragic death of Mr Crosland has prompted a number of people to suggest that the work burden of Government Ministers is heavier than any human being should be asked to carry. Even Mrs Williams, who is one of the most sensible of politicians, has added her voice to the chorus.

I would like to make two points. For those at the head of a Government Department, a business, or any organisation, the Minister's work load is as large as the individual cares to make it. The choice is more difficult in some areas than others but choice there always is. It is one of the essential skills of leadership to decide how much can be competently and safely done by oneself and how much should be delegated to others.

If Government Ministers are now beginning to feel the pressures, could I remind them of the appalling pressures they are creating for those who lead business today by their ceaseless flow of legislation? In their efforts to perfect every tiny aspect of industry and community life, they are building up huge stresses and frustrations which will ultimately destroy much of what they are seeking to achieve. Yours faithfully,
JAMES BEATTIE,
77 Victoria Street,
Wolverhampton.

Student fees

From Professor Geoffrey Warner

Sir, Mr Alford (Letters, February 17) argues that the British taxpayer should be asked to subsidise overseas students through unacceptably low tuition fees. While this is undoubtedly the case in general terms, it ignores situations in which exchange agreements exist between British and foreign universities.

I am responsible for a BA course in European Studies, one year of which is spent abroad, studying at a foreign university. To cite two examples, our students studying in France and the Federal Republic of Germany do not even have to pay the nominal fees charged by universities in those countries. They are, in fact, being subsidised by the French and West German taxpayers to a much greater extent than any foreign student in a British university. Yet when we take French and West German students in exchange, they are expected to pay these enormous fees.

It is all very well for Mr Alford to say that the recent increases "represent a fairly small reduction in the subsidy to overseas undergraduates of 15 per cent or less" but I can assure him that this is more than enough to prevent most French and West German students, the majority of whom do not of course receive grants on the British scale, from coming here at all. Faced with the de facto exclusion of their students, who could blame French and West German universities from excluding ours? This would mean the end of our exchange agreements and, I suspect, the end of many similar arrangements up and down the country.

The fees issue does, of course, have much wider implications, but

it seems to me that the very real problem of universities with foreign exchange agreements has been neglected in the debate so far. Surely there can be no reasonable objection to a solution on the basis of strict reciprocity. Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY WARNER,
65 Davenport Avenue,
Hessle,
North Humberside,
February 18.

From the Vice-Chancellor of Bristol University

Sir, The full cost of providing university tuition for a student is perhaps in the region of £2,000 per annum and upwards (and I am well enough aware of the difficulties in establishing any precise figures). This Mr Alford in your issue today (February 17).

Mr Alford has fallen into the hole already occupied by countless others, many of whom should know better, of dividing the total expenditure per annum of universities by the total number of students and equating that with "the full cost of providing university tuition". Since universities do so many things other than teaching students it is of course nothing of the kind. To take a homely analogy, which can perhaps be more readily understood, if you take the total income per annum of Marks and Spencer's and divide it by the total number of men they sell each year you don't get the cost of a Marks and Spencer's bra.

Yours faithfully,
ALEX MERRISON,
The University,
Senate House,
Bristol,
February 17.

Privacy and the media

From Mr Paul Sieghart

Sir, The Director of the Press Council (February 16) quotes from a document (Resolution (74)26) of the Council of Europe. That was a recommendation, not an interpretation of the European Convention. What the Convention itself says is that "everyone has the right to respect for his private and family life, his home and his correspondence". And the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which came into force last year and which also binds us, lays down that "everyone has the right to the protection of the law" against interference with his privacy (Article 17).

The Council of Europe document which Mr Paul quotes recommends, as a minimum, "an effective remedy" (my italics)

again. In an earlier letter to you (January 19) I invited the Press Council to answer two questions which go to the heart of the matter—namely the effectiveness of complaints to the Press Council as a remedy for infringements of privacy and the press in Great Britain. A month has passed, and my questions remain unanswered.

That is why I have since (February 11) suggested that the media themselves should see whether they could agree on an effective remedy, so leaving our politicians with no fear of self-interested press opposition if they tackle the rest of the privacy problem, which becomes more acute with every year that passes. Yours, etc,
PAUL SIEGHART,
6 Gray's Inn Square, WC1,
February 22.

Keats and claret

From the Editor of The Good Food Guide

Sir, Mr Mandling's scepticism about Keats's affection for claret (letter, February 17) can be answered from the morning clouds the chair and the "stuffed" with "cypres" down, the food means, the wine beyond claret, the window opening at the brim "necessarily imply per-

verse jinking for sparkling red burgundy. If Mr Mandling will pour himself a glass of wine from a generous height, bubbles will form, and wink out as they reach the edge of the glass. The description seems less apt for the behaviour of the bubbles formed by *methode champenoise*.

It is rather the word "brim" that should worry anyone anxious for Keats's credentials as a connoisseur. Perhaps your cartoonist would care to visualise a scene in which a wine waiter fills Mr Mandling's glass to within a millimetre of the top and corks, when rebuked, the influence of the "Ode to a Nightingale". Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER DRIVER, Editor,
The Good Food Guide,
14 Buckingham Street, WC2.

Planning and inner city decline

From Professor A. D. G. Smart and Mr M. P. Collins

Sir, Your readers should not be misled by the emotional criticism of our system of town and country planning contained in the letter (February 18) from Professor West and Mr Young.

Opinions clearly differ about planning successes and failures in England and Wales, the loss of 0.1 per cent per annum. This is much lower than in the 1930s and is a suburban building in the 1930s and it also compares very favourably with the current achievements of our EEC partners.

The decline of inner cities is a feature of Western Europe, United States of America and Japan, for example, as well as the United Kingdom. It is due, primarily, to complex social and economic causes well beyond the ambit of town and country planning.

While planning has undoubtedly influenced the workings of the land market, by restricting the amount of land available for urban development, there are other, equally important factors operating on the demand side, notably the rise of the national economy and the prevailing bank rate, and the rise in land and house prices in the South East England during the 1970s, for example, was attributable in the main to an upsurge in the availability of "cheap" mortgages rather than any shortfalls in the supply of housing land. There is sufficient land available for urban development, in the South East, to accommodate the next five to ten years' housing output. Massive releases of rural land would be needed to effect any significant reduction in land prices, and this in turn would give rise to just the kind of urban sprawl about which your correspondents are complaining.

"The myth of the South East drift" merely highlights the point that all forecasting for policy-making is hazardous, and planning is no more or less prone to this danger than any other activity. The drift stopped years ago, and planning in South East England has for long been based on the indigenous growth of the region's population, now reckoned at almost 11 million.

One last point suffices to demonstrate that your correspondents' inadequate knowledge of the workings of our planning system. Upwards of 80 per cent of all applications for planning permission are determined within two months, which is the time allowed by statute, and less than 20 per cent of all applications are refused planning permission. This hardly justifies the claim that our planning system imposes "insupportable costs to our whole economy by delays, shortages and plain bad decisions".

Your correspondents' confused thinking comes full circle with the alarming suggestion that decisions should be handed over to a development corporation, presumably added to the existing two-tier local government system. We believe that this, the pros and cons of which have been debated before, would only add further conflict and delay to the regeneration of inner London. Certainly strong co-ordination is needed, but this must stem from within the local democratic system and be accountable to it.

We would agree that there is a case for reviewing the town and country planning system. This can be done by a number of means, few of which are mentioned in this letter. Let us get the facts right first. Yours faithfully,
A. D. G. SMART, Professor of Urban Planning,
MICHAEL P. COLLINS, School of Environmental Studies, Liverpool College, London, 21 Victoria Road, W1,
22 Gordon Street, WC1.

Rockall

From Mr Michael O'Higgins

Sir, May I request the courtesy of your columns to make one point regarding the Rockall dispute? Contrary to what Professor Williamson and Mennie (February 18), and others previously, seem to believe, the Irish Government's case in the dispute does not rest upon any territorial claim to Rockall; despite pressure from the parliamentary opposition in Dublin, the Irish Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr Garret Fitzgerald has consistently refused to lay claim to Rockall.

The point at issue is whether a barren rock, far removed from the mainland and incapable of supporting human habitation, should convey any rights to any state. One of the few points on which the various sessions of the Law of the Sea Conference reached a fairly general consensus was that they should not. It is upon this view that Dr Fitzgerald bases his government's case. The fact that the existence of Rockall is irrelevant to the delineation of the boundary between the British and the Irish portions of the continental shelf. Would your correspondent argue that this is an unreasonable position? Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL O'HIGGINS,
London House,
Mecklenburgh Square, WC1.

New York and Concorde

From Dr K. A. Long

Sir, Permission to fly Concorde into New York could be obtained in a very simple way if our Government was in the least prepared to uphold British interests.

Flights from New York to London and Paris (by agreement with the French Government), could be banned, as well as flights from New York which fly in British and French airspace. This would almost certainly be a fatal blow to New York's ailing finances. There are many other ways into the United States, via Washington, Boston and Chicago, etc.

Is our Government really going to stand by and allow New York's environmentalists to force us to throw £700m down the drain? Yours sincerely,
K. A. LONG,
15 West Heath Road, NW5.

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of poorer nation

Telford

the space
the people
the growing
companies

Telford

for details of
relocation
opportunities
Call Bob Tilmouth
at 0952 613131

Land chief es warning of t opportunity avert closures

130,000 workers in a component plant given their sternest warning of the threat to its future, and that has been disputes and the need to allow greater flexibility in future wages strategy in order to resolve them.

Meanwhile, it has over recent weeks faced strike action by groups of workers objecting to changes in working arrangements, and now it has a big strike on its hands by toolmakers, who want separate wage bargaining negotiations and the restoration of skilled differentials.

Management attitudes to these kind of disputes are that while they sympathize over the question of anomalies in the wages structure they will not negotiate unilaterally with individual groups of workers.

A management spokesman said last night: "If we were, for instance, to concede the toolmakers' demand for separate negotiating rights we would be faced with scores of similar demands from other groups."

Leyland models out of production because of the toolmakers' strike, include the Marina, four Triumph models, the Allegro Jaguars and the new Rover SD1.

Yesterday Leyland warned 55 men on strike at its spare parts depot near Oxford: "Get back to work or lose your job."

The depot supplies up to 100 worth of parts every day to Leyland distributors. Since the strike began a month ago, it has been engaged with about 650 men laid off. Dealers are now facing the anger of motorists whose cars cannot be repaired.

The men went on strike demanding compensation for being laid off last December during a strike at the depot.

Ford stoppage: A one-day strike by 45 men in a section of the body plant at Ford's Halewood factory yesterday led to 700 other workers being sent home. The strike was in support of a man who was given a one-day suspension for failing to obey a supervisor's instruction.

A company spokesman said that the assembly plant was not affected.

Ministers prepare Paris meeting to set scene for seven-nation economic talks in London April date likely for summit curtain-raiser

By David Blake
Economics Correspondent

Preparations are now nearly complete for a meeting of senior ministers from all of the world's major industrial nations to lay the ground for the world economic summit to be held in London in early May.

April 14 and 15 seem to be the days likely for the preliminary meeting, which will be held at the Paris-based Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

Officials in a number of national capitals are now expecting that the OECD ministerial session will be brought forward this year from June so that the ministers from the 24 members can do vital preparatory work for the seven-nation summit.

If the ministerial meeting does take place in April, and this seems very likely, it will show that the London summit is aiming at something much more concrete than was achieved during the two previous gatherings of leaders from the seven largest nations, which took place at Rambouillet in France in

November 1975 and in Puerto Rico in June 1976.

At their April meeting, the ministers are likely to study reports on the outlook for the western economies in the medium term with a view to suggesting ways of coping with the recession, which is now well established as the deepest and most persistent since the war.

The session will provide an opportunity for all of the countries of the west to put across their points of view rather than restricting attendance to France, Germany, Canada, Italy, Japan, the United States and the United Kingdom, which are the regular attendees at economic summit meetings.

Countries excluded from this list have complained vociferously, particularly within the European Community, about the way in which decisions are taken over their heads.

Although the ministerial meeting will provide a vital opportunity for Finance and Foreign Ministers from the OECD countries to work out what they think should be done, it seems likely that any positive action will have to wait for

the summit itself. However, in the preparatory period Germany and Japan are coming under increasing pressures from other countries, and most notably now the United States, to reflate.

Officials of the Carter Administration have been spelling out with increasing frankness their view that these two nations are not doing enough to help the rest of the world out of recession or to cope with its balance of payments problems.

Some Administration officials have suggested that the Germans and Japanese should both try to get their domestic economies growing some 2 percentage points faster than now seems likely while others have called for a 10 per cent revaluation of the yen and the Deutsche mark.

Both suggestions are aimed at dealing with a situation where one recent respected study suggested that Germany, Japan, Switzerland and the Netherlands would have a collective balance of payments surplus of \$8,000m in 1977 compared with a \$3,000m deficit if they carried their share of the West's trade deficit.

An indication of how hard the United

States intends to press its view, and how hard the Germans and Japanese will resist, could come next week at a session of the OECD's Economic Policy Committee, a sign of the importance being attached to this meeting by the United States is that Mr Charles Schultz, chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers, is expected to attend.

The meeting could provide the first indication of the extent to which the United States is prepared to lobby to bring the other two members of the "Big Three" round to its point of view that more needs to be done to end the recession.

The results of the meeting next week will probably play an important role in determining the attitude adopted at the April ministerial meeting and in other more restricted meetings of officials to prepare the summit itself.

The first of these will take place in Washington on March 12, according to reports from Tokyo, at the end of Mr Callaghan's visit to see President Carter, during which the summit is likely to form a major part of discussions.

Racal move gives hint of bid battle for Ultra

By Desmond Quigley

Dougherty Group's bid for Ultra Electronic Holdings took a new turn yesterday when Racal Electronics announced that it had acquired a stake of more than 10 per cent in Ultra.

With the prospect of a contested bid and several candidates apart from Racal being mentioned in the stock market, Ultra's share price jumped another 27p yesterday to 175p.

The shares are now standing nearly 25p above the effective cash value of Dowry's offer and 100p above the opening price last Thursday.

Meanwhile, Applied Digital Data Systems conceded defeat in its fierce fight with Racal to take over the American communications group Milgo Electronic. It accepted Racal's \$36 a share offer in respect of its 47 per cent of Milgo, which announced last night it had just secured a 99m contract.

The board of Ultra Electronic decided to take no decision on the bid from Dowry, which has just over 12 per cent of the equity, after the disclosure of Racal's stake. Dowry is offering four of its Ultra shares.

Mr Edwin Birch, managing director of Ultra, commented: "We did not discuss the price or the merits of the bid. We find ourselves in a bit of a dilemma because we know from previous conversations that if we moved around there are other people who might be interested."

Earlier he had announced that the board had received "several informal approaches" from different companies over the past few months and that since the Dowry bid "some of these approaches have been received."

Racal whose shares rose 3p to 285p yesterday, disclosed that besides its existing stake of 10 per cent of Ultra, it had acquired on Monday a further 110,000 shares at between 144p and 148p as well as £25,000m of loan stock.

Racal refused to disclose its intention, but there were rumours in the stock market that it had been stalking Ultra before being preempted by Dowry and that it would make a counter bid.

Ultra, Racal and Dowry are all Ministry of Defence contractors, but whereas Racal and Ultra are both strong in advanced electronics, Dowry is involved in hydraulics.

However, since Ultra is now on a firm growth path—particularly with strong demand for its submarine tracking buoy—and has a small market capitalisation—£7.04m at yesterday's closing price—other potential suitors are being suggested.

Mr John Reed, chairman of EMI, said yesterday: "What happens to Ultra is of concern to us because we have links with them through the Ministry of Defence."

He said that any decision to join in the fray would have to be left to the board, which meets next week.

British Petroleum may join ICI in building second ethylene cracker

By Roger Vilevoe
Energy Correspondent

British Petroleum and ICI may enter a new joint venture to build a second ethylene cracker, this time at BP's petrochemical complex at Grange-muir Central Region, Scotland.

The two companies are already involved in the construction of an ethylene cracker at ICI's Milton works on Teesside which is due to begin operations early next year. A 155-mile-long pipeline is also under construction to link the ICI cracker with BP's other petrochemical operations at Grange-muir.

The Government's industrial strategy envisages the construction of four new crackers in the United Kingdom up to 1985. Two have already been announced—a Shell expansion of its

Stanlow plant and a new green-field site at Moss Moran in Scotland for Esso.

Timing, size and construction of the fourth will depend on the final results of a government study of a proposed gas gathering pipeline network in the North Sea.

The possibility of a third party entering a partnership at Grange-muir cannot be ruled out in the preliminary planning of the expansion at the Scottish complex. BP Chemicals is expected to spend £90m on developing.

Most of the petrochemical spending would be at Grange-muir and would involve expansion of facilities for intermediate petrochemical products as well as the cracker.

Although BP has not mentioned the areas in which this intermediate expansion will

take place, it is assumed within the company it will centre on products where BP has a major producer, such as acrylonitrile (for synthetic fibres); ethanol (for solvents and processing fluids); high density polyethylenes, and propylene.

Construction of a new ethylene cracker at Grange-muir would strengthen the small but growing petrochemical pipeline grid and give the Grange-muir and ICI plants more flexibility in the operation and servicing flow through the 10-inch diameter pipeline.

According to industry sources, it would also make sense for another pipeline to join Esso's proposed £200m ethylene plant at Moss Moran into the Grange-muir end of the grid.

City opens campaign against Bullock on threat to fund-raising

By Christopher Wilkins

A concerted City effort is being launched to convince the Government that the introduction of the Bullock Committee majority report on industrial democracy would create serious capital raising problems for many companies.

Representatives of all the leading suppliers of finance for industry are beginning a campaign to persuade ministers that capital will become either more difficult or more expensive to obtain; or both; if the proposals of the report are to be implemented.

The campaign got under way yesterday with the publication of a top clearing banker, a merchant banker and an institutional investor of the evidence they gave to the Bullock Committee last year, but which they feel was completely ignored.

They are Sir Eric Faulkner, chairman of Lloyd's Bank, Mr Ian Fraser, deputy chairman of the City of London, and Mr Peter Moody, joint secretary and investment manager of the Prudential Assurance. They were invited to give evidence to the Bullock Committee respectively as experts in the provision of short-term loans, loan and debenture capital and equity finance.

In the hope that their views would be heard by legislators on worker democracy, they are sending copies of their evidence to the Prime Minister, the Chancellor and the Secretaries of State for Trade and Industry.

Similar lobbying is expected to continue over the next few days. Within the next day or two the three main bodies representing investing institutions, the National Association of Pension Funds, the Association of Investment Trust Companies, and the Unit Trust Association, are expected



Sir Eric Faulkner yesterday: banks might reassess their lending facilities.

to make similar representations to Ministers.

Insurance companies, through the British Insurance Association and the Life Offices Association, are also preparing anti-Bullock submissions which are expected to be ready in about a month.

Sir Eric Faulkner, in his evidence, argued that banks would reassess their lending facilities if they detected a lack of confidence between the board and management of a company. Such a situation might arise if a blocking vote existed on a board which might threaten the normal freedom of management.

He said that "a proportion of worker directors as high as 50 per cent of a board must in this sense amount to a blocking vote". He argued that 25 per cent was a maximum reasonable representation.

The evidence of Mr Fraser and Mr Moody followed a broadly similar theme, pointing out that the introduction of Bullock would lead to a period of disruption and uncertainty during which the cost of capital would be bound to rise and possibly its availability diminished.

Financial Editor, page 19

Brazil accused over coffee prices

By Wallace Jackson
Commodities Editor

Coffee prices fell back sharply in the London market yesterday on reports that a United States Congress hearing on coffee prices produced copies of internal cables between the State Department and the United States embassy in Rio de Janeiro.

He said that the cables disclosed that the Brazilian Government had been conducting a deliberate, pervasive campaign to inflate and maintain coffee prices artificially at record levels.

The chief weapon had been Brazil's exorbitant and ever-increasing coffee export tax which only last week reached an all-time high of 85 cents per lb, he said.

dropped £62.50 per tonne to \$321.50. Earlier in the day prices had risen.

Representative Fred Richmond (Democrat, New York), testifying to a Congressional hearing on coffee prices, produced copies of internal cables between the State Department and the United States embassy in Rio de Janeiro.

He said that the cables disclosed that the Brazilian Government had been conducting a deliberate, pervasive campaign to inflate and maintain coffee prices artificially at record levels.

The chief weapon had been Brazil's exorbitant and ever-increasing coffee export tax which only last week reached an all-time high of 85 cents per lb, he said.

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sh stimulus in Carter Budget

Vogl
Feb 22

Carter today sent budget proposals to Congress. They involve all spending, besides a noted deficit than Budget announced in Administration in 1976.

Carter's 1978 provide further stimulus to the economy, besides monetary measures announced. The new on is now forecasted output of goods in the United rise by about 6 per cent in 1978, 12 months to the end of this year and 5 per cent in the next.

judger sharply illustrated differences between Administration successor, most monetary policies. President has restored all social assistance in his predecessor cut, while also resident Ford's social increase in social security.

w Administration's includes a \$300m (77m) cut in the

defence programme proposed by President Ford. It also includes a one year delay, to early 1978, in the start of a \$300m loan programme to Portugal.

However, the Budget includes a \$458m increase to \$1,766m in the next fiscal year's security supporting assistance programme to the Middle East. It includes \$631m more for development aid.

The inclusion of the already announced economic stimulus and the new programmes announced today will add \$19,400m to the spending total proposed by the previous Administration. Total outlays in the fiscal year starting October 1 are \$459,373m.

Changes in tax proposals and a forecast of higher real growth than predicted by the Ford Administration have resulted in estimated revenues of \$401,624m, which is some \$8,600m greater.

The estimated 1978 fiscal year deficit is now set at \$57,749m, compared with the Ford Administration's estimated deficit of \$47,000m.

The 1976 and 1977 fiscal year deficits represented a record 22.8 per cent of total United States gross national product, but the 1978 deficit is seen as being in line with the deficit in 1975 at 22.4 per cent of total GNP.

Mr Bert Lance, Director of the Office of Management and Budget, stressed at a press conference that the Administration was determined to produce a balanced Budget by 1981. This would be achieved by ensuring faster economic growth, by reorganizing the government, by introducing zero-based budgeting techniques and reforming the tax system.

Mr Michael Blumenthal, Secretary of the Treasury, said that faster economic growth was vital.

Mr Blumenthal and Mr Charles Schultz, the chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers, both asserted that the Budget would not lead to higher inflation. Mr Schultz said that the underlying rate of inflation was likely to hold to 5 to 6 per cent per year.

Mr Blumenthal said the Administration was working now on plans for an anti-inflation programme that would involve specific target rates.

Congress is likely to accept most of the proposals in today's Budget.



Mr Charles L. Schultz, chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers: eyeing a balanced Budget by 1981.

he markets moved

25p to 270p	11p to 111p	Bank	20
4p to 47p	20p to 400p	Bank	20
10p to 250p	10p to 120p	Bank	20
5p to 33p	10p to 440p	Bank	20
5p to 185p	10p to 120p	Bank	20
11p to 323p	10p to 120p	Bank	20
7p to 75p	10p to 120p	Bank	20
7p to 57p	10p to 120p	Bank	20
3p to 41p	10p to 120p	Bank	20
11p to 127p	10p to 120p	Bank	20
5p to 303p	10p to 120p	Bank	20
Food 10p to 60p	10p to 120p	Bank	20
Anal 8p to 227p	10p to 120p	Bank	20
Oil Exploration 4p to 87p	10p to 120p	Bank	20
Nat of Aust 5p to 210p	10p to 120p	Bank	20
Wearwell 2p to 14p	10p to 120p	Bank	20
Gold rose \$1.75 an ounce to close at \$137.875.	10p to 120p	Bank	20
SDR-S was 1.15656 on Tuesday, while SDR-C was 0.678732.	10p to 120p	Bank	20
Commodities: Cocos prices rose. Reuters' index was at 1639.5 (previous 1642.0).	10p to 120p	Bank	20
Reports pages 21 & 22	10p to 120p	Bank	20
Prices policy document	10p to 120p	Bank	20
Bank Base Rates Table	10p to 120p	Bank	20
Annual Statements:	10p to 120p	Bank	20
Alcan Aluminium	10p to 120p	Bank	20
Crest Nicholson	10p to 120p	Bank	20
Derby Trust	10p to 120p	Bank	20
European Banking Corporation	10p to 120p	Bank	20
Marchwiel Holdings	10p to 120p	Bank	20
S & W Berisford	10p to 120p	Bank	20
Vesper Thornycroft	10p to 120p	Bank	20
Preliminary Amusement	10p to 120p	Bank	20
Allied Insulators	10p to 120p	Bank	20
Unit Trust	10p to 120p	Bank	20
Barclay's Life	10p to 120p	Bank	20

The Times index: 164.04+2.97
The FT index: 397.7+8.7

THE POUND

Australia \$	25.50	25.50
Belgium \$	65.00	62.00
Canada \$	1.80	1.75
Denmark Kr	10.40	10.00
Finland Mk	8.70	8.45
France Fr	8.72	8.40
Germany Dm	4.25	4.00
Greece Dr	65.00	60.00
Hong Kong \$	8.15	7.70
Italy L	155.00	151.00
Japan Yen	505.00	480.00
Netherlands Gld	4.42	4.28
Norway Kr	9.28	8.92
Portugal Esc	38.00	34.50
Spain Pes	123.00	112.50
Sweden Kr	7.50	7.15
Switzerland Fr	4.44	4.22
Yugoslavia Dnr	35.00	32.50

White House upsets banks

From Our United States
Economics Correspondent
Washington, Feb 22

President Carter plans to propose legislation that will enable the Federal Government to earn interest on the cash balances it maintains with private banks.

The new Budget released today states that this legislation will enable the Government to reduce its total interest payments on its outstanding debt. It notes that the Federal Government does not receive earnings on its cash balances and that upon enactment of the legislation it will pay the banks full costs of the services the banks now provide free of charge.

This proposal will produce a major controversy. There is no doubt that the banks handling the Government's cash now get substantial profits from this activity. The banks will almost certainly fight hard to prevent congressional approval.

The Ford Administration always rejected this plan because of the banks' known opposition. The new Administration, however, is determined to reduce the Government's huge interest costs.

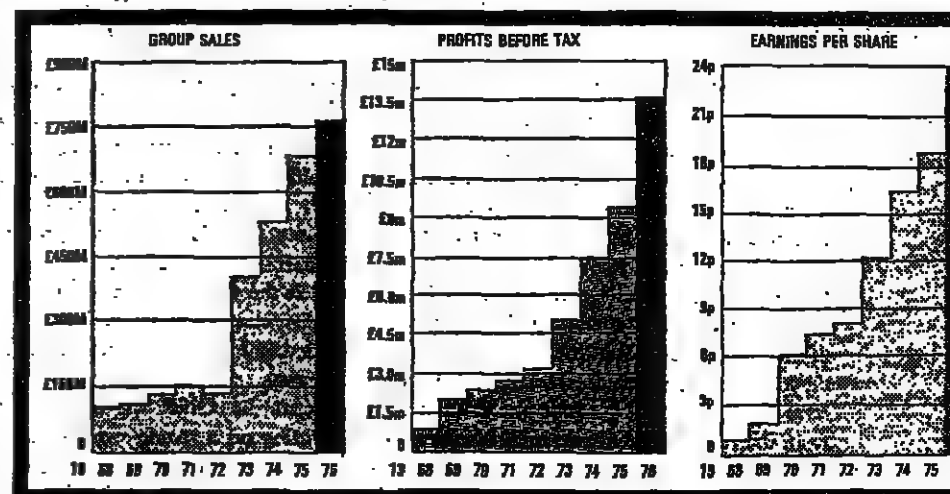
The prenotification concept is aimed at providing the Government with better information to enable it to make more accurate economic plans and forecasts.

Mr George Meany, the President of the confederation of United States trade unions, has already said he opposed the plan because it would be a first step towards full controls.

Mr Meany said at a union conference that his organization would not cooperate.

ANOTHER YEAR OF RECORD SALES, PROFITS & EARNINGS

- The year under review has maintained the unbroken progress of the Group over the last eleven years and previous record levels of turnover, profits and earnings per share have been comfortably exceeded.
- Sales - up 11.3% to £768,402,000
- Profits - up 45.4% to £13,564,000
- Earnings per Ordinary Share - up 23% to 24p
- Dividend up by maximum allowed to 8.5p per share covered 3.4 times by available earnings. Shareholders who took up the one-for-one Rights issue at par, announced in November 1975, received a 119.9% increase in dividend income last year.



Copies of the Annual Report & Accounts for the year ended 30th September, 1976, may be obtained from the Secretary, S & W Berisford Limited, Berisford House, 50 Mark Lane, London EC3R 7QJ.

S & W Berisford Limited

Curbs on pensions 'almost certain' to come off in new pay policy

By Margaret Stone

Mr Roy Grantham, the general secretary of the Association of Professional, Executive, Clerical and Computer Staff, said yesterday that it was "almost certain" that the Government would remove the restrictions on improving company pension schemes during the next stage of the pay policy.

His statement has been welcomed by the pension industry which itself has been pressing for this same relaxation. Mr Ron Peet, the chief executive of Legal and General Assurance, said last night: "Such action will particularly be in the interests of workers employed in the most in need of pension scheme improvements."

However, both the Government and the TUC have made clear that any improvements in occupational pension schemes

must wait until after the Budget and be considered as part and parcel of the negotiations over any further phase in the pay policy.

APEX, a white-collar union, is the only one so far to make formal representation to the TUC that pension scheme improvements be included in debate, although other unions and the TUC itself are in favour of exempting pension scheme improvements from pay restraint—if the price is not too high.

The Government, for its part, is known to have no objections to relaxing its rules about improving pension schemes over and above the present permitted level of bringing schemes up to the minimum level for contracting out of the new state earnings-related pension scheme coming into operation in April, 1978.

In the past, however, it has always insisted that any improvement in pensions could be allowed only under the blanket formula relating all improvements in pay. And it was, in fact, the unions which rejected this proposal—on the basis that it favoured higher paid workers.

The growing recognition of the value of pensions as deferred pay coupled with the major changes required in all pension schemes wishing to opt out of the state scheme, has softened much union opinion.

Mr Grantham's comments formed part of the introduction to a survey on trade union attitudes to pension schemes undertaken by Antony Gibbs Pension Services. And from the questionnaire completed by 42 unions it is clear that public and private sector unions are strongly in favour of excluding pensions from pay policy.

MPs' committee to look into £42.8m loss by Chrysler UK

Chrysler UK's loss of £42.8m up to December 31 last year is to be looked into by the House of Commons trade and industry subcommittee when it meets today.

At the same time as Chrysler UK announced its loss on Monday its American parent company, Chrysler Corporation, revealed a world-wide record profit of £251m.

Dr Edmund Marshall, chairman of the trade and industry subcommittee, said yesterday: "The way the two figures contrast is clearly something which will engage the attention of members of the subcommittee. We will look into the figures very carefully."

The MPs' concern is caused by the fact that the Government will pay a total of £41,400,000 of the loss under the rescue agreement with the company signed late in 1975. The agreement followed a "pay up or we pull out" ultimatum from Mr John Riccardo, chairman of the American Chrysler Corporation.

Sir Harold Wilson, then Prime Minister, told the Commons that the Government had been presented "with a pistol at its head". The overall cost of the Chrysler rescue over the four years of the agreement is likely to be £162m.

The Department of Industry said yesterday the company

had already received £40m from the Government in stage payments during 1976, and the remaining £1,400,000 of the loss would be paid on receipt of the company's audited accounts.

When the figures were released on Monday a Chrysler spokesman said the results reflected the considerable cost of restructuring the company.

A spokesman yesterday said the loss was in line with the forecast of £40m. He added that but for the deterioration in the pound, the loss would have been less than the forecast.

It is understood that the pound's collapse late last year cost Chrysler UK about £4m. If the pound had remained stable, the loss would have been around £39m.

The spokesman said the company was "making satisfactory progress" this year. Under the rescue deal the forecast loss for 1977 is £20m, of which the Government has agreed to pay £10m.

Statement said: Mr Michael Grylls, an Opposition spokesman on industrial affairs, has written to Mr Varley, secretary of state for industry, calling for an early statement on progress in the reorganisation of Chrysler. This move follows the common questions intended to obtain details of the Government's monitoring of the Chrysler rescue.

BA seeks £2 domestic route rise

British Airways yesterday outlined its case for a fares increase on domestic routes from April 1 and said it was likely to be back for more in November.

The state-owned airline put its case at the Civil Aviation Authority hearing of applications by United Kingdom Airlines for permission to raise fares on domestic routes by between 5 per cent and 15 per cent.

British Airways' proposals would raise the London-Glasgow-Edinburgh tourist single fare by £2 to £28 and the London-Belfast fare by £1 to £28.

There have already been two increases in the past year. Mr Arnold Heard, British Airways route licensing manager, said the airline would make a profit of £605,000 before interest on its domestic network during the next financial year if the proposals are approved.

April's planned rises were intended to restore the "common pricing" on the three trunk routes because it was intended to introduce the shuttle already operating between London and Scotland to the London-Belfast leg on April 1.

Mr Heard said the application had been brought about by rising costs.

But a rise of £2 in April on Scottish trunk routes "will mean returning with an application for a further increase—possibly £2—for November, 1977, to keep level with the general rate of inflation, and more specifically with anticipated related operating cost increases."

In brief

French-Soviet oil deal deadlocked over price

Paris, Feb 22.—Negotiations for French imports of Soviet crude oil are deadlocked over price.

The Soviet Union is insisting on a flat 10 per cent increase, similar to that decided by 11 members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, while France is seeking a 5 per cent rise, in line with Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, the sources said.

The two French state-controlled companies involved in the talks are Societe Elf-Aquitaine and CIE Francaise des Petroles.

"The talks are deadlocked but not broken", one official said.

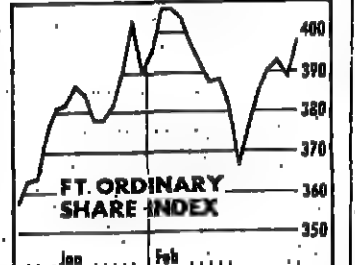
Imports of between 3.5 and 4 million tons of Soviet crude for the year beginning March 1 were planned.

Last year France imported 1.8 million tons of Soviet crude, an increase of 50 per cent.

Slight rise in raw steel output

Brussels, Feb 22.—January production of raw steel in the countries represented in the International Iron and Steel Institute totalled 35.6 million metric tons, up 0.7 per cent from the December total and up to 3.5 per cent from 34.4 million tons in January, 1976.

The IISI area accounts for 98.5 per cent of world steel production, and excludes the Soviet Union, other eastern block countries, China and North Korea.



At last night's close of 397.7 the FT Index is again approaching the 400 mark, last exceeded on February 4. The index has now gained more than 31 points since the January trade figures, but pay policy doubts brought a hefty fall on Monday of last week.

January production in the European Community was 10.7 million tons, up 7.7 per cent from December's 9.9 million tons and 3.6 per cent (10.3 million tons) in January, 1976.

Aluminium output up

Primary aluminium production by non-Communist countries reached 937,000 tons in January compared with 920,000 tons in December and 813,000 tons in January last year, according to the International Primary Aluminium Institute.

Production capacity of 19A1 members totalled 12,457,000 tons at end 1976. This is expected to rise to 12,968,000 tons at end 1977.

Vosper sees 500 warship jobs at risk

Vosper Thornycroft, one of the country's three specialist warship builders, could face job losses if it fails to win a £40m order from the Ministry of Defence for a type 42 guided-missile destroyer.

The order is expected to be placed with a shipyard within the next few weeks.

Sir John Rix, managing director of Vosper, who has been highly critical of the diversion of warship orders to non-specialist shipbuilders, said in London yesterday that if this order, or an equivalent frigate order did not go to Vosper, the company may eventually have to lay off up to 500.

Cammell Laird, one of the non-specialist yards bidding for the project, is thought to be a strong contender for the contract. Some consolation is being found among builders in the expectation that the loser in the present battle would probably be compensated by the bringing forward of orders

Italian state group's top men protest

From John Earle Rome, Feb 22.—Professor Giuseppe Petrilli, chairman of the Italian state-owned conglomerate, IRI (Istituto per la Ricostruzione Industriale), today faced a senior staff revolt when 13 of the 15 top managers at the group's headquarters here threatened to resign.

Officially, their action was "in protest against the nomination of Signor Fausto Cialabini as financial coordinator for the group."

In practice, their attitude was seen by observers as a protest against the imposition of political rather than business standards in the management of the group.

An IRI spokesman denied that the 13 had already resigned, saying reports to this effect were without foundation. But the 13, who held posts of directors and condirettore centrale, said they were placing their posts at the chairman's disposal.

Signor Modiano to head section of Confindustria

From Our Own Correspondent Rome, Feb 22.—Disensions among the smaller firms who form the bulk of the membership of Confindustria, the confederation of Italian private industry, have been overcome with the overwhelming confirmation of Signor Marcello Modiano as president of its small industries section.

A Trieste engineering entrepreneur, Signor Modiano, aged 53, provisionally succeeded Signor Mario Corbino, owner of two Naples photoprocessing firms, when he was voted out of office last November.

Signor Modiano was confirmed with 36 votes out of the 37 present at a meeting of Confindustria's central council for small industry.

In the meantime Signor Corbino has resigned from Confindustria and announced his intention of setting up a new organization for forward-looking small industrialists to be called Base-Industria.

UNEMPLOYMENT

The following are the monthly figures for Great Britain released by the Department of Employment yesterday:

	Total	Seasonally	Unemployed
	no.	adjusted	as % of
	000s	000s	lab. force

1976	742	670	8.1
Jan	742	670	8.1
Feb	757	703	9.1
Mar	757	703	9.1
Apr	757	703	9.1
May	757	703	9.1
June	757	703	9.1
July	757	703	9.1
Aug	757	703	9.1
Sept	757	703	9.1
Oct	757	703	9.1
Nov	757	703	9.1
Dec	757	703	9.1

1977	757	703	9.1
Jan	757	703	9.1
Feb	757	703	9.1
Mar	757	703	9.1
Apr	757	703	9.1
May	757	703	9.1
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Oct	757	703	9.1
Nov	757	703	9.1
Dec	757	703	9.1

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Tax incentives and a remodelled pay structure—two essential needs

From Sir Kenneth Keith

Sir, As the debate on the nation's economy continues with particular reference to prices and incomes, we, as a nation, are being faced with an ever-increasing number of claims from various pressure groups. The return to free collective bargaining, the restoration of differentials, productivity deals, the need for greater exports, the need for higher prices and higher profits in order that we may have higher investment, and the fate of the lower-paid worker are likely to loom large in any list.

It is clearly evident that we will need to ask ourselves not what we can afford to do, but rather what it is we cannot afford not to do. In this context two requirements seem to me to have a priority claim.

Many people are looking to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to reduce income tax. He must, however, not just be concerned with improvements in the area where taxation, state benefits and low pay impinge on each other in such unfortunate ways.

It is necessary to recognize the disincentive effects of the current high tax rates which bite too hard at too low a pay level and very hard at higher levels.

We are a highly industrialized nation and dependent for our existence on our ability to

create a good positive balance of trade in manufactured goods, so as to meet the deficit which will always exist in the imports of food. It would seem essential to encourage and give an incentive to all those engaged in our wealth-creating industries, so as to close the gap.

Surely, therefore, we should aim to have a tax structure more in line with that of our EEC partners who are also some of our more important competitors.

The other requirements we cannot afford not to meet are the examination and improvement of distorted pay structures or the establishment of new ones. This is the way to answer the cry of loss differentials.

It is really not practical to take some moment in the past when relations were thought to be about right and then simply apply corrections to bring the present rates into line. Relationships must be seen in the light of current needs, which arise largely from our being an industrial and trading nation.

In the management and technology fields of employment we are, of course, in an international market for talent and unless we alter our reputation as a nation which overtaxes and underpays, there cannot be much hope for our balance of

payments and hence survival in the long term. It would seem to me that practical ways of bringing into our structures must be to place a low limit on general increase in the incomes policy, but what is required to be genuine restructuring must be applicable to employment, manual workers, and management.

We should be placing install structures based on responsibility and them to be implemented as possible—hopefully in August, 1977.

There is a price which has to be paid if the proposals are to be implemented. This price can only be higher output and at the cost of fewer jobs. But survival in the long term can only be a high output/high economy. This simple but in fact already been met by our most effective firms.

Yours faithfully, KENNETH KEITH, Chairman, Rolls-Royce (1971) Ltd, Norfolk House, St. James's Square, London, SW1.

Reduced tariffs for off-peak use of electricity

From Mrs W. E. A. Evans

Sir, In your issue of February 16, your correspondent, Roger Vignoles, discussed a reduction in night tariffs for electricity to divert consumption from peak times and to ease the load on the generators. The CEBG seems only to envisage a reduction in respect of storage heaters.

What is needed, I think, is not the first time it has been suggested, is a reduced tariff for all domestic use in off-peak hours. This would simplify meters and time-switches and be of real benefit to workers who wash and iron and cook at night.

It is suggested that the CEBG would like to reduce the tariff for use by, for instance, those many of them elderly who would like to switch on a Dimplex-type heater to warm a bedroom in the evening, or a one-bar electric fire to improve their off-peak background heating or just to toast their toes by before going to bed.

Incidentally, what are off-peak times? Recently, in an alleged rationalization of off-peak use, I was offered an extension for storage heaters and a meter to be set so that they were set to use current from 4 am to 2.30 pm—not the most obvious off-peak hours!

I tried this and while it did not matter for the room-heaters, it made an unacceptable difference to the water-heater. If a child had been early and there was the normal end-of-day washing up, there was no hot water at 10 pm for a grown-up bath. Fortunately, as a "preserved tariff" user I was able to get the switch put back to the old

saving giving satisfactory hot water.

If off-peak hours are what the layman imagines something like 7 pm to 7 am, that would give cheaper electricity in the home at really useful times.

Yours faithfully, WINIFRED E. A. EVANS, Manor View, Cranborne, Wiltshire, BA12 5PU, February 17.

From Mrs Dorothy Fry Sir, The Times reports "Electricity night tariffs may fall" refers to half a million consumers using night-rate tariffs and one and a quarter million on tariffs that involve cheap electricity rates together with a boost for their appliances during the afternoon.

Tariffs for such customers are likely to remain unchanged (presumably meaning the latter users?).

When the new heaters were marketed without the after-noon boost it was stressed that those had been designed to store as much heat as the original ones to give equal daytime temperatures.

Therefore it seems monstrous that any discrimination should now be made between the two with a suggested reduction for half a million users of the total 1,750,000 users. The board hopes this reduction would prevent them losing customers. One appreciates their statement—as one switches off.

Yours faithfully, DOROTHY A. FRY, 4 Copthall Gardens, Mill Hill, London, NW7.

Graduates' job preferences

From Mr J. P. Peavey

Sir, May I belatedly respond to Mr Geoffrey Drain, General Secretary of the National and Local Government Officers' Association (January 17), in which he accused me of succumbing "to some hoary old myth in asserting that the 'self-employment' of public service employees is attracting the best brains away from industry" (December 10), by drawing attention to a final year survey carried out by young university students to determine, among other things, their career preferences.

The survey, by Market and Opinion Research International, after questioning students at 18 universities in England and

Wales last summer, determined that "university students see themselves as much more fitted for Civil Service jobs than for industry" (The Times, February 9).

Are not the survey's findings further proof of the correlation between the decline of industry in Britain and the tendency of university graduates to favour public service employment over careers in industry and commerce?

Yours sincerely, JOHN P. PEEVEY, Development Assistance Corporation SA, PO Box 3421, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, February 13.

Jobless 'dissimulation'

From Mr Brian Wood

Sir, Peter Jay says (February 17) that Mr Henley was "politically constrained" to talk of unemployment of 750,000 when he knew it could be in the low millions. One gathers from the euphemism that Peter Jay approves of, or at least accepts, this kind of diffuse deceit. Presumably the disapprover of Mr Booth who was honest enough (should it be unguarded enough?) to code publicly the other week

the possibility that unemployment might reach two million. Where does one stop with this sort of thing? Is dissimulation an art form to be practised only by those Ministers of the Crown or is everybody entitled to play the same sort of game if it suits them?

Yours faithfully, BRIAN WOOD, The Manor Barn, Princetown, Devon, Warkwickshire, February 17.

Participation through profit-sharing

From Mr Michael Stanley

Sir, None of the correspondence which has yet appeared in your columns on the Bull-ock Report appears to have drawn attention to a major matter of principle. This is that the obvious way forward to employee participation is through profit sharing and equity shareholding by employees. In this way the control of interest would be resolved because the employees would be represented as shareholders.

At present one of the principal arguments against increasing profitability by means of wage restraint whether it is enforced by the state or the TUC or by the restraint of individual shareholders is that any surplus accruing to the company becomes the property of the shareholders even though the amount which can be paid to them as dividends may be restricted by law.

This could be overcome if a suitable proportion of the surplus taken into reserve was issued to the employees as equity shares. If the company had no need to build up internal funds, or this was thought otherwise desirable, the employees could be given a cash bonus.

For such a scheme to be effective, a substantial change in the philosophy of taxation would be needed. This is, however, desirable on other grounds. The change needed is that equity shares issued above should not be taxed as part of the income of the individual; neither should the cash bonuses referred to above, if these are used for investment rather than consumption.

This leads to the conclusion that capital gains tax should be abolished, not investment by the individual over the year should be an allowable charge against income tax, and net disbursement by the individual should be added to the individual's income for taxation purposes.

Such measures recommended could and should lead both to greater employee participation and also to the

'Explosiveness' of natural gas

From Mr A. Waller

Sir, Your edition of February 17 carried a report of a conference at which it was stated that natural gas was more explosive than oil. This statement is simple and comparative and of safety are not so described.

If gas leaks into a room, it is the air/gas mixture which is inflammable, not the gas itself. The lower limit of inflammability is reached when the gas is mixed with air in a ratio of about 5 per cent. This is a very weak mixture and the energy released at ignition is comparatively small. For the same sized room about the same sized amount of oil is required to reach the lower limit of inflammability, but the lower limit is reached about four times that of oil.

2477

Allied Insulators Limited

Preliminary Results

Year ended 31st December	1976 £000's	1975 £000's
External Sales	12,302	9,882
Trading Profit	1,644	1,213
Profit before taxation	1,568	1,063
Profit after taxation	760	533
Expenditure on fixed assets	476	245
Depreciation	214	168
Return on Ordinary Shareholders Funds—profit before taxation	32.0%	23.8%
Earnings per Ordinary Share	8.21p	5.69p
Dividends per Ordinary Share		
Final	2.0p	1.41p
Interim	1.5p	0.44p
Dividend cover	2.35	3.08

Extracts from Statement by Mr. Alan Lloyd (Chairman)

- * Export sales have increased by almost 30%.
- * Net current assets have increased by over 25%.
- * Net asset value now amounts to 54p per share.
- * High tension deliveries in the U.K. now represent less than 30% of total group sales.
- * Given a sensible economic environment in which to operate future prospects are encouraging.

Annual General Meeting to be held on Friday 25th March, 1977 at Federation House, Station Road, Stoke on Trent at 11.30 a.m.



VOSPER THORNYCROFT LIMITED

Another Record Year

- Trading Profit increased by 40%
- Turnover increased by 19%
- Turnover for Export £61m
- Net Dividend covered more than 11 times
- Net Tangible Assets exceed £21m

	Year to 31st October 1976 £'000	Year to 31st October 1975 £'000
Turnover	97,745	82,050
Trading Profit	6,735	4,806
Taxation	2,657	2,051
Dividends	249	226
Profit Retained	2,845	1,904
Earnings per Share	47.38p	32.89p
Dividend per Share	4.13p	3.76p
Net Tangible Assets per Share	353p	214p

DB A SUBSIDIARY OF DAVID BROWN HOLDINGS LIMITED

Derby Trust Limited

Main points from the Accounts and Statement by
The Hon. David Montagu, the Chairman

- * Portfolio including net current assets up by 8% in year to 31st December, 1976, FT Actuaries All-share Index down by 3.3%.
- * Distributable income up 11.1% to 11.87p per share net, asset value up 16.1% to 240.3p.
- * Since formation of Company in late 1966 total assets have increased by 81%, FT Actuaries All-share Index by 63% and Unit-holder Index by 72.1%.
- * Compound annual rate of growth of Capital Share asset value (14%) and Income Share distribution (12%) both exceeded cost of living (11%) over this period.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

INCOME ACCOUNT				CAPITAL ACCOUNT			
Year ended 31st December	Gross Revenue	Amount Available for Distribution	Dividend per Income Share	Value of total Assets	Net Assets of Capital Shareholders	Asset value per Capital Share	
1975	609,802	272,063	10.66	10,839,966	5,277,478	206.3	
1976	679,492	302,990	11.87	11,697,976	6,145,475	240.3	

Annual General Meeting 12 noon, 21st March, 1977 Portman Hotel, W.1. Copies of the Annual Report and Accounts may be obtained from the Secretary, Hesketh House, Portman Square, London W1H 0JR.

NEW PRICES POLICY CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT

Extended investigatory role envisaged for Commission

The Government's powers to enforce a Price Code expire on July 31 and new legislation is necessary to allow price control to continue. The Government are not prepared to accept the demands from some sections of industry for the abandonment of price control on July 31. The Government consider that it is indispensable to maintain in force a control over prices, if per policy is to continue to make its key contribution to solving our economic problems.

Price Commission

The Government propose that the Price Commission, established in 1973, should continue to be responsible for the operation of prices policy. Sir Arthur Cockfield, who has served as Chairman since the inception of the Commission, announced last year, when he consented to the extension of his appointment, that he wished to leave the Commission on July 31, 1977. New members will also be appointed to the Commission.

Present policy

The prices policy at present in force consists of two distinct elements. The first centres upon the Price Code. The Code is a large body of rules applicable to all enterprises. Briefly described, the rules provide that all companies have to stay within profit levels typical of the period prior to control; and that manufacturing and service companies can increase their prices pro rata to the increase, since pre-control days, in certain allowable costs. There are

certain reliefs, notably geared to investment outlays.

Margin controls

Under the new legislation which they will ask Parliament to enact the Government propose to retain the powers to make and enforce a Price Code. They propose to use these powers to maintain the control over the net profit margins of manufacturing and service firms and the gross and net margins of distributors. Where reference levels set out in the Code are exceeded prices must be reduced.

The Price Code provisions relating to margin control, including the present investment relief and the provision made in last year's Code amendments for the revision of reference levels, will be maintained. Consideration will be given to providing for Current Cost Accounting (CCA) to be used for the margin control, once an accounting standard has been issued, by those firms which adopt it in their accounts.

Cost controls

The present cost control rules for manufacturing and service firms have become over-complicated and inflexible, and arbitrary and out-dated in their application to individual products. They have come to be regarded by some firms as an impediment to price increases, when the cost savings they can achieve through efficiency and innovation.

In the new policy the Government do not propose to continue with a control over price increases by reference to costs. This will be superseded by the new investigatory system described in the following section.

The second element in the existing price controls comprises the investigations undertaken by the Price Commission on references from the Secretary of State. These investigations are concerned with specific questions—the price of a product, the effect of a pricing practice, the consequences for prices of a particular distributive system, etc. The reference work is highly flexible. The terms of reference can be precisely tailored to the particular question to be investigated and the Price Commission can carry out the investigation with dispatch.

The present investigatory system is available to the Government to act on recommendations made by the Price Commission following its investigation. While useful results can be achieved on a voluntary basis by negotiation with the interests concerned, this is not sufficient.

The Government therefore propose to strengthen the investigatory system as a central part of the new policy. Their objective is to establish a strong but flexible instrument within their overall prices policy, preserving a balance with the existing manufacturing and



Mr Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, at the press conference yesterday.

service firms. These firms would not be able to increase any other objectives of economic policy, including the industrial strategy.

The Government's proposal is a policy of price control within which the Secretary of State would have well defined powers to act in the cases of price rises which are unreasonable or prices which are unjustified.

The chief characteristics of the new approach are:

- All prices and all enterprises would come within the scope of the new policy, subject to certain exceptions to be specified by order (e.g. coal and steel prices). The number of exceptions would not be large.
- The Price Commission would take on new functions.
- The larger manufacturing and service companies would be required to continue to pre-notify their price increases (subject to exceptions similar to those applying under the present controls).
- The Commission would select price increases for investigation and in these cases would make recommendations to the Secretary of State as to price increases which should be allowed.
- The Secretary of State would have powers to act on the Commission's recommendations, subject to parliamentary procedure.
- The Secretary of State would also have powers to order inquiries into prices and pricing practices and to act on recommendations, subject to parliamentary procedure.

Individual enterprises

The Price Commission would decide, by reference to published criteria (set out on this page) whether it wished to investigate a pre-notified price increase, the gross margin of a distributor who renders regular reports, or the prices or

starting from the date on which the investigation began.

The Government propose that there should be safeguard levels below which the profit margin on the product (manufacturers and services) or on the business (distributors) may not be depressed as a result of any Order made by the Secretary of State following an investigation.

The new legislation would stipulate that the new Code must contain such safeguards. The safeguards would represent minimum acceptable profit margins and would not reflect any judgment as to what should be regarded as a reasonable level of profit for the purposes of the investigatory system.

The investigations would be totally different from the quasi-mechanical measurement of a proposed price increase against a Code. They would take account of the particular conditions in the enterprise; they would not, as in the Code, regard cost increases as inevitable but could go into the reasons for (and against) them; and third parties would be able to put their views to the Commission. Part of the investigation might take the form of public hearings, if requested by the company.

The present Code provides a sanction against breaches of any pay policy currently operative. The proposed new prices policy would contain a similar provision.

General inquiries

The preceding section described the application of the proposed new policy to individual enterprises in manufacturing, services and distribution. In addition, and carrying forward the programme of general Price Commission investigations which has been running for a couple of years, the Secretary of State would have powers to require the Commission to investigate for example, the price of a product made or sold by several enterprises, prices in a sector or a prevailing pricing practice.

Like the investigations into individual enterprises those ordered by the Secretary of State would, where appropriate, go into costs and profits. The same criteria as would be used

for the individual investigation would guide both the Secretary of State in deciding to investigate and the Commission in conducting it.

During such investigations the question of a price would not arise; and investigations would be limited to a period of months. The Price Code would be required to contain recommendations to the Secretary of State, and pursue them with the enterprises concerned.

He would have powers to make orders relating and charges which from the Commission's recommendations or to access binding undertakings enterprises.

At this and other appropriate stages in the day-to-day operation of the investigatory system, the sponsoring department would be consulted. The provisions described would also apply to made following general inquiries.

Conclusion

The proposals in the present document maintain a balance across the board. The relief of companies from the rigidity of the present controls and the additional burden of the latter. They would establish a regime in which price rises, which affect the whole of society, would be socially accountable.

Consultations

Comments on these proposals should be sent to the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection (Prices Division), Victoria House, London SW1 0ET, to the Department not later than Friday, March 18, 1977. A copy of the proposals can be obtained from the address. It should be noted that detailed proposals, revised Price Code, would contain the details of the investigations, which will be subject of further consultation before the Code is made statutory instrument under proposed new legislation.

Criteria call for a fair balance

The criteria would require the Price Commission and the Secretary of State to have regard to maintaining price levels which are equitable to consumers and remunerative to efficient manufacturers, distributors and providers of services. Among the relevant factors they would in particular have regard to:

- (a) Allowance for costs unavoidably incurred in the efficient supply of goods and services, taking account of the maintenance of the value of the business;
- (b) The encouragement of the reduction of costs by improving the use of resources, while ensuring that the consumer shares in the resulting benefits;
- (c) The earning of profits which give a real rate of return on capital employed sufficient to meet the cost of finance, including compensation for the business risk, and to sustain investment in expansion, innovation and technical improvement;
- (d) The maintenance of quality and the satisfaction of

changing consumer demands and services;

(e) The encouragement of competition as a means of ensuring price stability; or where competition is not practicable, the protection of the consumer against abuse of market power;

(f) The promotion of a balance between supply and demand and the avoidance of serious shortages or effects on the balance of payments.

The maintenance of a balance of the British world markets.

Business appointments

New director for Great Portland

Sir Andrew Carnwath has joined the board of Great Portland Estates as a non-executive director.

In preparation for his resignation from chief executive duties later this year, Mr. A. Victor Adey, chairman and managing director of Mercantile Credit, will resign as managing director from April 1. He will continue as executive chairman. He will be succeeded as managing director by Mr. Stuart Errington, a joint deputy managing director. Mr. S. E. J. Kemp, also a joint deputy managing director, will become deputy managing director.

Mr. E. J. Godall has ceased to be an executive director of Amalgamated Power Engineering and has rejoined the board as a non-executive director.

Mr. W. P. Lockwood and Mr. M. G. Horton-Martin have become joint managing directors of Lockwood Foods. Mr. W. J. Long joins the board.

Mr. Barry Norris has joined the board of Stock Convention and Investment Trust.



Mr. Ray Underhill (left) who has been appointed financial director of T. I. Tubes; Mr. Stuart Errington, who is to be managing director of Mercantile Credit.

Mr. Anthony Tennant has become managing director of International Distillers & Vintners in succession to Mr. Geoffrey Pallas, who has been made deputy chairman. Mr. James Egey has been made group marketing director.

Mr. Geoffrey Normand is to succeed Mr. J. D. P. Tavendale as managing director of Mander (Holdings) when the latter retires at the end of the year. Mr. Tavendale will continue as chairman of the company and of Mander-Domolac and also as managing director of Mander Property (Waterbury).

Mr. Ray Underhill has been made financial director of T. I. Tubes.

Mr. D. C. Jones, former president, has been elected chairman of Haddock's Bay Oil Co. He continues as chief executive officer. Mr. S. G. Olson becomes president.

Mr. B. Le Mare has ceased to be chairman of Norwest Hotel but remains a director. Mr. S. E. Baucher, deputy chairman, will depart until further notice.

"Substantial Contribution from Overseas"

Profits exceed £10.7 million

It is most gratifying to be able to report that both profit and turnover again showed a substantial increase over the previous year. We were helped by good weather in the U.K. and an absence of any major loss making contracts while for the first time the overseas activities have made a substantial contribution to profits.

Whist profitability should again be good in the forthcoming year, our workload prospects give some cause for anxiety in the longer term. Never in my experience has the construction industry in Britain been singled out and treated so harshly as recently. We have, however, the management and financial resources to tackle the difficult task of widening and developing our activities overseas. This can only be done in an orderly manner but I am encouraged by progress to date and optimistic about the outcome. Our liquid resources strengthened further in the year and now represent in excess of 150p per share.

Sir Alfred McA Alpine & Son (Northern) Limited This company had another successful year and contracts progressed at a faster rate than anticipated owing to the exceptional summer weather. Work is progressing well, after a difficult start, on the

Dinorwic pumped storage scheme and activity will increase in 1977. The cutback in public spending, and particularly the road construction sector, will inevitably affect the workload of this company. It is disappointing that the housing side recently set up to deal with public sector housing may have to be partially disbanded, but there is some sign of increasing activity on the industrial building front.

Sir Alfred McA Alpine & Son (Southern) Limited

This company has maintained the same level of turnover and profit as last year despite the depressed state of the industry. The latter part of the year was affected by Government restrictions on capital spending on roads and housing. During the same period there was an improvement in the industrial sector to give an uniformly distributed outstanding workload.

Sir Alfred McA Alpine (International) Limited Whilst the cost and effort required in establishing new companies overseas should not be underestimated this company has continued its policy of expanding its overseas activities. Considerable success has been achieved during the year with the award of substantial contracts in the Sudan and the United Arab Emirates. These contracts are progressing satisfactorily and are making a useful contribution to the overseas earnings of the company. Further markets are being sought in a number of countries in the Middle East and Africa. Design work continues on the Tehran to Tabriz Railway project in Iran but construction work is not expected to be let for some time.

Further Prospects In the future therefore much will depend on how rapidly and successfully we can transfer more of our U.K. activities overseas. As I have indicated workload prospects in Britain are not particularly encouraging and margins are under pressure. While I anticipate substantial profits in 1977 there is some risk of a decrease in turnover. We are most fortunate to have in having such a loyal and talented staff workforce on whom to rely for our continued progress.

A. J. McA Alpine, Chairman.

CONSOLIDATED PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT for the year ended 31st October, 1976

	1976 £000's	1975 £000's
Turnover	136,963	131,438
United Kingdom	45,288	12,633
Overseas	162,251	144,521
Profit before tax	7,493	7,884
United Kingdom	3,278	(830)
Overseas	10,731	7,014
Taxation	4,343	3,687
Profit before extraordinary items	6,338	3,347
Extraordinary items	582	167
Minority interests	5	12
Profit attributable to shareholders	6,975	3,580
Dividends	528	482
Undistributed profit	6,447	3,074
Earnings per share	38.5p	20.2p
Dividends per share	3.05p	2.70625p
Net assets per share	208p	147p
Liquid assets per share	157p	86p

MARCHWIEL HOLDINGS LIMITED

The Sir Alfred McA Alpine Group

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FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

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it deputy chairman, Baucher, a coun- fare, will depuise notice.

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Y WATER

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R INSURANCE

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fter test) of "Invest- Equities" for year to Gross dividend raised 3.7p.

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George Spencer dited by Nottingham e last it has become a 142,500 ordinary 3.2 per cent of the ital).

THALES

Myers announces nary 11 disciplinary ysor Ullmann bought ary shares in C. E. 11.6 per cent of the 21ps. On February 18, ese shares were sold e announcement was request of the Tuke-

ERNATIONAL

rofit of Anglo-Inter- estment Trust for 1976 £234,000 to £23,000, ent rises from 4p to

Shadow over Allied Insulators' gains

By Ray Maughan

Allied Insulators has lived comfortably up to its recovery expectations and, after over a decade in the doldrums, is reaching into a period of renewed growth.

Pre-tax profits for 1976 climbed from £1.06m to £1.57m but, as predicted, the dividend is held well within the bounds of approved Treasury limits to build up cash resources.

The insulation engineering group could have paid a total of almost 6.15p last year yet, with projected earnings of £360,000 on foundries, and a further £140,000 elsewhere, the dividend is limited to 5.30p.

Exports are the clue to Allied Insulators' revival. They now account for around 40 per cent of total sales of £12.3m against £9.9m.

The dominance of the high tension products division is encouragingly reduced and its United Kingdom output, much of which is sold to the suppliers of the Central Electricity Generating Board, may account for less than 30 per cent of total turnover.

Charringtons leans less on traditional fuels

As long ago as 1973 Charringtons Industrial Holdings was making £3.2m before tax and this year to March 31 it will probably make a bit more than 1975-76's £3.34m. Allowing for inflation, Charringtons has been shrinking.

It has lessened its dependence on fuel and is keeping money profits moving. In the nine months to December 31 pre-tax profits rose from £1.43m to nearly £1.5m and before interest and tax from £1.56m to £2.6m.

Amey looks after it leaps

On a virtually static turnover of £73.3m against £72.3m for the half to December 31, Amey Roadstone Corporation reports pre-tax profits up 58 per cent to £8.07m. Interest charges dropped to £928,000 from £1.09m. Net profits rose from £2.38m to £3.78m.

The best part of the profits gain, the board adds, came from construction and general haulage. The figures were also enhanced by the profitable disposal of ships to Comben Longstaff. Expansion overseas was also "significant".

However, the outlook for the second half to June 30 will be overshadowed by the Government expenditure programme.

The signs are that this will contract further before any revival in demand in Amey's aggregates.

Fitzwillton chairman offers to resign

Mr M. Dineen, the chairman of Fitzwillton, the Dublin-based industrial conglomerate, has asked the board to accept his resignation from the chairmanship and from the board with effect from the end of this month.

He indicated to the board at a meeting earlier this week, after the questions of the strategic policies and long-term future of the group should come up for early decision.

It would be appropriate, he thought, for these questions to be determined by the board under a chairman who would stay on for a long time.

Lourho-Dunford

Lourho's formal offer document for Dunford & Elliott will be posted to shareholders today. It will include proposals, recommended by the steel group's board, to redeem rather than carry through a cash offer for Dunford's £1.14m 91 per cent convertible stock. As part of its £15.2m cash bid Lourho had offered 80p cash for each convertible stock. Now, the two boards have agreed on a proposal by which Dunford would redeem the stock at 80p, using funds provided by Lourho.

Homfray warnings

The current year has started "reasonably well" at Homfray, and Mr D. E. Gillam, the chairman, says that carpet sales, par-

Johnson Group

Opinion hardens: a cheeky bid

Shareholders in Johnson Group Cleaners will be receiving the formal offer for the company within the next few days. Although the institutions are understandably noncommittal until they have seen the details, the initial trade reaction is that the bidder is opportunistic.

At current prices, the cash and paper offer values each Johnson Group ordinary share at just over 42p but, since the shares, currently at 49p, have remained persistently above the bid price, it would appear that the market is reflecting the trade's view.

The bid terms are substantially below net assets of 67.7p per share shown in the end-December 1975 balance sheet. In contrast to the bid capitalisation of £4.7m, freehold properties were shown at £5.89m.

Of course valuations are extremely difficult and it is perhaps as well that Johnson has always excluded the £2.56m surplus on a 1970 valuation of 449 outlets within the total portfolio of 690 premises.

The shops, on a low frorage,

Turnover at the Unilator Technical Ceramics division climbed by 20 per cent but the company says that profits remain inadequate in relation to capital employed.

But the volume of production at Bullers Engineering dropped by 23 per cent in the face of reduced demand for castings in the last few months, the outlook for 1977 has changed radically. At the end of last year, Mr Alan Lloyd, chairman, reported that the order book did not auger well.

However, the value of orders recently received has improved the position and "commitments for the first half year indicate prospects of much greater utilization of capacity than achieved during the final quarter of 1976".

For the current year, Allied Insulators must continue its recent export success if it is to keep moving ahead.

For the moment, the board seem reasonably confident of paying the maximum permitted dividend of 6.25p gross this year where, at an unchanged price of 48p yesterday, the yield is 7.7 per cent.

Borrowings dropped but dearer money meant that interest charges moved only from £1.13m to £1.1m. The result was equity profits of £715,000 for an unchanged interim dividend of 1p net or 1.54p gross absorbing £373,000.

On sales of £112.3m, margins in terms of profits before interest and tax to sales were only 2.3 per cent.

The current year could finish strongly. Mr Rowland C. Hall, chairman, reports that January and February were encouraging.

ticularly exports, are in line with the board's expectations. Competition is particularly difficult at present. He says that most carpet makers in the country, including Homfray and its efficient and low cost producers with excellent records for exporting. However, unless the industry realistically increases its profit margins, the necessary funds are not being produced in finance future development and maintain employment.

Clairmace pays way for quote

As another step on the way towards getting a Stock Market quotation again, Clairmace, Mr Oliver Jessel's vehicle, proposes to raise its capital from £150,000 to £500,000 by creating 3.5m shares of 10p each.

The board has been considering an amalgamation with the High Income Trust for 18 months "with a view to creating a substantial industrial grouping". It could apply for relisting "in due course".

Mr Oliver Jessel says that plans for this are now in hand as the industrial companies start to develop.

However, the expense and work needed for a quote make it imperative that the group should be big enough to warrant the effort.

Metal Box's Italian aerosol buy

For nearly £400,000 Metal Box Overseas has bought 40 per cent of a new Italian company formed in association with Brebbia Vittorio E Figli, Italy's largest manufacturer of tinplate aerosol containers.

The new company, Brebbia Metal Box, will absorb assets of Brebbia, which include a modern tinplate aerosol manufacturing plant in Spilamberto.

Metal Box, a private family company, holds 60 per cent of the tinplate aerosol market in Italy.

But, using Metal Box's association with international aerosol fillers, it is planned to develop sales in other EEC countries.

Local authorities

Down goes the coupon on this week's batch of local authority

Hongkong & Shanghai slows, but pays more

By Adrienne Gleeson

A 14 per cent improvement in the 1976 net profits from the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation was not enough to satisfy the London market, and the group's shares initially lost 6p, though they recovered later to close just 2p down at 350p.

At HK\$356.4m, the net figure is struck after an unquantified transfer to inner reserves, and relates to the parent company only although dividends from subsidiaries have been taken in, the group figure will not be published until later.

But the directors say that the group net total is expected to be in the region of HK\$390m as against HK\$333m in 1975.

Profits growth appears to have slowed in consequence of the slow-down in the economies of the world's industrialized nations in the second and third quarters of the year, but the directors now say that there were signs of a return of economic confidence towards the end of the year.

Thanks to strong growth elsewhere in the Middle East, the biggest subsidiary, the British Bank of the Middle East, appears to have come through the year well.

Mr G. M. Sayer, chairman, points out that much now depends on how the United States handles its economic affairs.

Hongkong and Shanghai's directors accept that the pace of the economic upturn may be slow, but they feel confident enough to forecast that profits this year will be sufficient to maintain last year's dividend (11.5p) from HK\$9.58.

HK\$0.60 a share or 20p net capital is increased by last April's 1-for-10 scrip issue) on the share capital as increased by another 1-for-10 issue which they now propose.

Record year at City Offices

City Offices grew more slowly in the second half-year, but it finished 1976 with record pre-tax profits of £997,000 against £873,500. Gross income was £1.23m against £1.12m.

The first six months saw a 25 per cent rise in profits to £58,000 and the second half brought in profits of £660,000, a 10 per cent increase.

Earnings a share for the year were 2.32p against 1.89p, and up goes the dividend from 2.16p gross to 2.37p.

A professional revaluation at December 31 shows an increase in value of £563,000 for free-holds and £381,000 for lease-holds.

Campari scrip for Trustee status

A scrip issue of one for one and then the consolidation of every two 10p ordinary shares into one ordinary share of 20p is proposed by Campari, in the marketing of clothing, camping, sports and marine equipment and footwear.

It also proposes to increase the authorized capital from £1m to £1.5m. The move will give Campari Trustee status.

T. F. & J. H. Braime scrip

A jump of 85 per cent in pre-tax profits of T. F. & J. H. Braime (Holdings) has taken this deep drawn press work specialist to a 1976 record of £270,000. This includes an exceptional credit for 1976 of £38,000.

The board proposes a one-for-five scrip issue, and raises the dividend from 4.98p gross to 5.49p. Earnings a share were 10.12p against 4.78p.

Stock markets

Good buying catches dealers short

Though a little below their best by the end of the day, shares staged a strong recovery with a good level of demand.

The initial impetus came from relief that Mr Healey is to stay as Chancellor and the hope that the statement on the future control of prices would contain a reference to the easing of dividend restraint.

The fact that it did not make little impact and the FT Index, having advanced 5.2 by 2 pm, stayed firm throughout the afternoon to close 8.7 up at 397.7. Though many price rises were helped by a shortage of stock, dealers said both the quality and quantity of the buying was good.

Watch Bull & Collins which has a stake in Block 29/15, immediately northwest of the Shell-Esso Auk Field. The word is that Shell plans to drill there in a month's time and that prospects are encouraging. B's shares, quoted under Rule 163, are around 38p.

ing was the best for some time. Gilt-edged stocks turned in a more subdued performance and in chin trading rose by up to one quarter of a point across the range.

With shortages of stock playing a part, there were 10p rises from "blue chips" like Glaxo at 450p, Fisons 313p and Unilever 440p. ICI ended with a gain of 7p to 342p, while a lively interest in Tesco & Newall had the shares 5p ahead at 147p.

Dealers say that investors are now tending to disregard Turner's southern Africa and building industry connections and are coming to regard the company as a multi-national organization. With this in mind, a good run is expected. ICI was helped by figures from its subsidiary, IML, which rose 6p to 57p.

After a mention here, Dunlop gained 5p to 93p, while BAT Industries, though active, were unmoved at 250p.

The present state of the market lends itself to speculative situations and there were a good number of features, especially among electrical shares. Foremost was Ultra Electronics, which soared 27p to 175p on speculation that Dowry's terms may soon have a rival. This thought was fuelled by news that Racal, up 3p to 289p and fresh from its Milgo rattle, had added to its stake in Ultra.

Other speculative shares in electricals were MK Electric, up 11p to 127p, Muthhead 9p to 162p and Bowthorpe 4p to 59p. After a mention in this column, W. Canning ended 4p ahead at 47p and Martonair was also firm at 110p, a net rise of 6p. Brown Muff rose 7p to 160p, matching the Fraser terms, but surprising some by their caution in sympathy, Ely's (Wimbledon), another stores group, gained 13p to 48p. The other side of the coin saw Lockwoods Foods, also talked of as a potential takeover candidate, losing 10p to 60p. With its proposed merger with Gateway not going to the Monopolies Commission, Linfeed rose 4p to 222p.

Bids and speculation apart, electricals had a strong session with GEC recovering 5p to 185p after the decline brought about by union opposition to its capital reorganization plans. Other good spots were Decas, better by 12p to 262p, International Computers 10p to 196p, Rank 6p to 186p, BSR 5p to 116p and BICC 5p to 99p.

In engineers, Metal Box added 4p to 272p after its Italian acquisition, GKN gained 11p to 323p and Vespers were 4p better at 89p after final figures. Davy International ended 5p higher at 186p, while there were also good rises from Delta Metal 3p to 59p and Babcock & Wilcox 3p to 79p.

After the worries of the previous day brought about by the Leyland troubles, Lucas Industries rallied 7p to 232p. Smith's Industries continued to meet investment support at 141p, up 4p, while higher commodity prices were good for a 9p gain to 180p for trader Gill & Duffus.

In buildings there were solid gains from AP Cement 5p to 181p, Taylor Woodrow 4p to 266p and still helped by recent figures, Marchwell which ended 3p ahead at 145p.

In the financial sector, the

clearing banks were again in good form with National Westminster 7p to 225p leading the field and ahead of tomorrow's full-year figures, Barclays which ended four points up at 232p. But figures did nothing for B&K & Shanghai which closed a couple of pence lower at 350p.

Properties saw some modest demand, the best being Stock Conversion, up 6p to 184p, and Land Securities 164p and Great Portland 218p, both 4p to the good.

Norwest Holst were unchanged at 88p after news of a

English China Clave's senior management spent yesterday in meetings at their merchant banker, Schroder Wagg. They were hammering out the final wording of an announcement to the Stock Exchange to be made as dealings start this morning. The dividend is nearly four times covered by last year's earnings, the debt-to-equity ratio is rising and ECC's chairman has talked of "promising opportunities ahead for acquisitions or expansion by development". It could add up to news of a rights issue or an overseas bid ahead of today's annual meeting.

Latest dividends

Company (and par value)	Ord div	Year ago	Pay date	Year's total	Prev year
Allied Insulators (25p) Fin	2.0	1.41	1/4	3.5	1.85
Anglo-Java (25p) Fin	3.1	2.9	1/4	5.9	2.5
Aquis Securities (5p) Fin	0.37	0.35	25/4	0.6	0.57
Arctocentric (5p) Fin	0.22	0.22	1/4	0.4	0.4
Broadstone Inv (20p) Fin	3.3	2.81	28/4	4.5	3.65
"Invest In Success" (25p)					
Sec Inv	1.85	1.54	1/4	2.4	2.08
Charlton's Inds (25p) Int	1	—	—	—	—
City Offices (25p)	0.84	0.72	—	1.54	1.4
HK & Shanghai					
HK (\$2.50) Fin	0.44	0.42	—	0.60	0.58
M. & G. Conversion Fin	2.5	2.04	31/3	3.7	3.14
M. & G. Fox Eastn Int	0.63	0.25	10/4	3.3	2.84
M. & G. Special Fin	1.9	1.54	31/3	3.3	2.84
Rothman (10p) Fin	0.44	0.36	31/3	0.86	0.78
Imp Metal Inds (25p) Fin	1.59	1.45	7/4	2.94	2.58
Vesper Thorneycroft	2.06	2.25	18/5	4.12	3.75
W. Coast & Texas (10p) Fin	0.5	0.4	4/4	0.5	0.4

boardroom split, Blackwood Hodge put on 21p to 84p after recent comment here and cash-rich Nottingham Manufacturing was unmoved at 68p after raising its stake in George Spencer, the company it tried to take over unsuccessfully last year.

Figures left Allied Insulators 48p and City Offices 421p both unmoved.

Equity turnover on February 21 was £39.85m (last 51 days £1.25m). Active stocks yesterday, according to Exchange Telegraph, were ICI, GKN, Trafalgar House, Shell, RTZ, BP, Dunlop, BAT, Hfd, P & O, Ultra Electronic, BAT Industries, BICC, Rank, MK Electric, Barclays Bank, Ely's (Wimbledon), Braithwaite, International Computers, Stothert & Pitt, Racal and Gill & Duffus.

Vosper Thorneycroft up but threat of nationalization bad for orders

By Richard Allen

Vosper Thorneycroft, the shipbuilder and engineer campaigning against the Government's nationalization plans, pushed pre-tax profits up 37 per cent to £5.5m in the year to October 31. Turnover rose 19 per cent to £97.7m.

A subsidiary of David Brown Holdings, the group has lifted earnings a share from 33p to 47.4p and the 11 times covered dividend goes up from 5.78p gross to 6.35p.

The group's Vosper Thorneycroft private subsidiary in Singapore chipped in around

12 1/2 per cent of the total turnover and turnover for export amounted to £61m.

Meanwhile, following last year's revaluation of fixed assets, net tangible assets have risen from 214p to 353p a share.

Sir John Rix, managing director, said yesterday that uncertainty over nationalization was undoubtedly having some effect on overseas ordering. Gaps are beginning to loom in order books.

The group is engaged in a political tussle with Cammell Laird in the North East over the placing of a major T42 frigate contract.

Sir John said that if this or

an equivalent frigate order does not go to Vosper, around 500 redundancies could ensue.

However, there is a growing feeling in the Government may placate the loser in the battle for the T42 business by bringing forward orders planned in the next financial year.

Up to 80 per cent of Vosper's total business could be hired off under nationalization if the ship-repairing side is included. The group would thus be left with its Singapore operations, the smaller Keith Nelson subsidiary in Italy and a 30 per cent stake in the David Brown Vosper offshore operations.

Peak figures and bigger payout from Aquis Secs

With pre-tax profits up from £256,000 to £335,000 last year Aquis Securities is raising the gross payment from 0.886p to 0.924p.

Gross income of this property and hotels group rose to £1.5m, from £1.25m, including profit from the sale of land and buildings of £187,000, more than twice the previous year's £60,000.

The short leasehold properties in the United Kingdom were valued at December 31. No amortisation has been provided. If it had been, pre-tax profits would have been £19,000 lower.

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Balance Sheet as at 31st December, 1976

ASSETS	
Cash in hand, balances with bankers and money at call and short notice:	51,053,414
Bank certificates of deposit and promissory notes	24,299,470
Other deposits with banks	56,739,416
Investments	3,315,307
Loans, advances and other accounts	119,486,831
Assets leased to clients	1,789,251
Fixed assets	663,567
	£257,347,256
LIABILITIES	
Current and deposit accounts	235,528,649
Other liabilities	6,464,805
Dividend payable	500,000
Taxation	2,126,755
	244,620,209
SHARE CAPITAL AND RESERVES	
Share capital	10,175,000
Retained profit	2,552,047
	£257,347,256

Extracts from the Chairman's Statement:

"In 1976, further progress was made in establishing our position in the field of international merchant banking and operating results were satisfactory. Profit before tax rose to £3,164,762 against £2,129,485 in 1975. Profit after tax reached £1,506,762, a gain of 50% compared with the figure of £1,002,485 recorded last year."

"At its last meeting in December of 1976, the Board of Directors expressed satisfaction with the continued development of the Bank in 1976 and resolved to recommend the payment of a dividend of 5% and an increase in capital which will augment the Bank's own resources by £2,500,000. These recommendations will be submitted to a General Meeting of the shareholders on 16th March, 1977."

Copies of the Report and Accounts can be obtained from the Registered Office: 40 Basinghall Street, London EC2V 5EB. Telephone: 01-638 3654. Telex: 8811001

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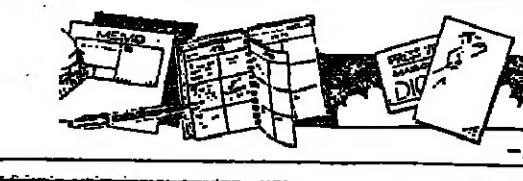
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Price	Change	High	Low	Volume	Company	Price	Change	High	Low
100	0.00	100.00	100.00	100	100	100	0.00	100.00	100.00
101	0.01	101.00	101.00	101	101	101	0.01	101.00	101.00
102	0.02	102.00	102.00	102	102	102	0.02	102.00	102.00
103	0.03	103.00	103.00	103	103	103	0.03	103.00	103.00
104	0.04	104.00	104.00	104	104	104	0.04	104.00	104.00
105	0.05	105.00	105.00	105	105	105	0.05	105.00	105.00
106	0.06	106.00	106.00	106	106	106	0.06	106.00	106.00
107	0.07	107.00	107.00	107	107	107	0.07	107.00	107.00
108	0.08	108.00	108.00	108	108	108	0.08	108.00	108.00
109	0.09	109.00	109.00	109	109	109	0.09	109.00	109.00
110	0.10	110.00	110.00	110	110	110	0.10	110.00	110.00
111	0.11	111.00	111.00	111	111	111	0.11	111.00	111.00
112	0.12	112.00	112.00	112	112	112	0.12	112.00	112.00
113	0.13	113.00	113.00	113	113	113	0.13	113.00	113.00
114	0.14	114.00	114.00	114	114	114	0.14	114.00	114.00
115	0.15	115.00	115.00	115	115	115	0.15	115.00	115.00
116	0.16	116.00	116.00	116	116	116	0.16	116.00	116.00
117	0.17	117.00	117.00	117	117	117	0.17	117.00	117.00
118	0.18	118.00	118.00	118	118	118	0.18	118.00	118.00
119	0.19	119.00	119.00	119	119	119	0.19	119.00	119.00
120	0.20	120.00	120.00	120	120	120	0.20	120.00	120.00
121	0.21	121.00	121.00	121	121	121	0.21	121.00	121.00
122	0.22	122.00	122.00	122	122	122	0.22	122.00	122.00
123	0.23	123.00	123.00	123	123	123	0.23	123.00	123.00
124	0.24	124.00	124.00	124	124	124	0.24	124.00	124.00
125	0.25	125.00	125.00	125	125	125	0.25	125.00	125.00
126	0.26	126.00	126.00	126	126	126	0.26	126.00	126.00
127	0.27	127.00	127.00	127	127	127	0.27	127.00	127.00
128	0.28	128.00	128.00	128	128	128	0.28	128.00	128.00
129	0.29	129.00	129.00	129	129	129	0.29	129.00	129.00
130	0.30	130.00	130.00	130	130	130	0.30	130.00	130.00
131	0.31	131.00	131.00	131	131	131	0.31	131.00	131.00
132	0.32	132.00	132.00	132	132	132	0.32	132.00	132.00
133	0.33	133.00	133.00	133	133	133	0.33	133.00	133.00
134	0.34	134.00	134.00	134	134	134	0.34	134.00	134.00
135	0.35	135.00	135.00	135	135	135	0.35	135.00	135.00
136	0.36	136.00	136.00	136	136	136	0.36	136.00	136.00
137	0.37	137.00	137.00	137	137	137	0.37	137.00	137.00
138	0.38	138.00	138.00	138	138	138	0.38	138.00	138.00



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Receptionist, 25+ moving and receiving clients. Must be a good communicator. Salary £3,500 p.a. and a comprehensive benefits package. If you are interested, please apply to the Personnel Manager, 17 Air Street, London, W.1. Tel: 01-734 4284.

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NO SHORTHAND

SALARY £3,000-£3,500 p.a. Small but successful property company. W.I. requires a Secretary/Cook. The position offers a competitive salary of £3,500 p.a. and a comprehensive benefits package. If you are interested, please apply to the Personnel Manager, 17 Air Street, London, W.1. Tel: 01-734 4284.

22 CARAT P.A.

Senior position for top Admin. Secretary/P.A. in a major company. The position offers a competitive salary of £3,500 p.a. and a comprehensive benefits package. If you are interested, please apply to the Personnel Manager, 17 Air Street, London, W.1. Tel: 01-734 4284.

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£3,300 NEG.

Based in W.I. the Chairman of a major company is offering a high level of responsibility and involvement. The position offers a competitive salary of £3,300 p.a. and a comprehensive benefits package. If you are interested, please apply to the Personnel Manager, 17 Air Street, London, W.1. Tel: 01-734 4284.

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Secretary P.A. required for a major company. The position offers a competitive salary of £3,500 p.a. and a comprehensive benefits package. If you are interested, please apply to the Personnel Manager, 17 Air Street, London, W.1. Tel: 01-734 4284.

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We are seeking a responsible, personable Secretary to the Managing Director of this major company. The position offers a competitive salary of £3,440 p.a. and a comprehensive benefits package. If you are interested, please apply to the Personnel Manager, 17 Air Street, London, W.1. Tel: 01-734 4284.

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for Finance Controller of large Public Company in West End of London. Good educational and secretarial background essential. Age approx. 25-35. Excellent working conditions. Lunch, vouchers, pension scheme, etc. Apply giving details of experience to: BOX 0524 J, THE TIMES

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The Director of a professional association requires a first-class Secretary/P.A. to assist him in his office. The duties are varied and interesting, and the post offers a commanding salary of £3,440-£3,500 according to experience and skills. If you are interested please ring 639 7887 for further information.

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(London Office, S.W.1)

are looking for an experienced Confidential Secretary for their Deputy Chairman. Candidates should be between 30-40. This is an exceptionally interesting and varied post and entails dealing with people at all levels. Must have initiative. Excellent salary and in addition there is a profit sharing scheme. Please telephone or write with full details to Patricia Clayfield, William Collins Sons and Company Ltd., 14 St. James's Place, London SW1A 1PP. Tel: 492 5521.

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Offshore subsidiary of major U.S. Company has secretarial opening in Sales/Marketing dept. Applicants should have good formal skills, together with good appearance, personality and enthusiasm necessary for this position. Present Secretary being promoted to management position and highly recommended job in this small friendly office. Salary £3,200 plus fringe benefits, travel allowance for those outside Greater London area. PLEASE RING 01-492 3332

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Experienced (preferably with Arabic family) to look after two children, 10 and 12 years old. Must be a Christian, married, and have a good knowledge of Arabic. Salary £3,500 p.a. and a comprehensive benefits package. If you are interested, please apply to the Personnel Manager, 17 Air Street, London, W.1. Tel: 01-734 4284.

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Responsible working conditions. Attractive salary and benefits. Apply in writing to: Mrs. Fleming, Glenfingie House, Spean Bridge, Inverness-shire.

PARIS CENTRE

FRENCH LAWYER REQUIRES EXPERIENCED NANNY

3 boys, aged 5, 7, and 9, starting May 1. 2 year minimum contract. Help with homework and general care. Salary £3,500 p.a. and a comprehensive benefits package. If you are interested, please apply to the Personnel Manager, 17 Air Street, London, W.1. Tel: 01-734 4284.

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A bright person to assist in the running of a flat. The position offers a competitive salary of £3,500 p.a. and a comprehensive benefits package. If you are interested, please apply to the Personnel Manager, 17 Air Street, London, W.1. Tel: 01-734 4284.

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Appointments Vacant also on page 26

Kenya University College—Kenya

A constituent college of the University of Nairobi. Applications are invited for LECTURESHIP IN GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT. Applicants should possess a B.Sc. degree in Geography or equivalent, and have a minimum of five years' experience in teaching Geography at the secondary level. The salary scale is KSh. 12,000-18,000 p.a. plus allowances. For further details, please apply to the Registrar, Kenya University College, Nairobi.

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Applications are invited for a post of Lecturer in Biology. The successful candidate will be responsible for teaching and supervising students in the Department of Biology. The salary scale is MSh. 12,000-18,000 p.a. plus allowances. For further details, please apply to the Registrar, University of Malawi, Zomba.

University of the South Pacific—Fiji

Applications are invited for a post of Lecturer in English. The successful candidate will be responsible for teaching and supervising students in the Department of English. The salary scale is FSh. 12,000-18,000 p.a. plus allowances. For further details, please apply to the Registrar, University of the South Pacific, Suva.

University of Botswana and Swaziland

Applications are invited for a post of Lecturer in English. The successful candidate will be responsible for teaching and supervising students in the Department of English. The salary scale is BSh. 12,000-18,000 p.a. plus allowances. For further details, please apply to the Registrar, University of Botswana and Swaziland, Gaborone.

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UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

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Appointments Vacant also on page 25

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If you are selected for aircrew training, consider the escalation of your skills and responsibilities. First you do basic officer training. Then you are taught to fly a jet. If you succeed at this, you move on next to

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If you think you can do this, and if the challenge of a career as an RAF officer appeals to you, please contact your local RAF Careers Information Office. (You'll find the address in the phone book.) You can make an appointment with the officer in charge. Or send this coupon to Group Captain H. E. Boothby, OBE, ADC, BA, RAF Officer Careers (9397/1), London Road, Stanmore, Middlesex, HA7 4PZ.

ONLY SO MANY CAN BECOME THE FEW

Please send me information about aircrew officer careers.

Name _____ Address _____

Date of Birth _____ (Age limit 17-23) (Please application must be made in the UK)

Please enclose a separate note listing your present and/or intended educational qualifications. You should have 5 or more acceptable GCSE O-levels at grade C or above, or equivalent, and subjects must include English Language and Maths; or equivalent. If you can offer A-levels or a degree so much the better. (9397/1).

RAF officer
AIRCREW

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IF YOU ARE ABOUT SIZE 12 AND 5' 5"

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SECRETARIAL ASSISTANT

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required for the National Advice Centre which advises doctors at interview and by correspondence on training in the U.K. New appointment; will suit methodical person with good typing. Salaries on scale £2,347 to £3,347. 30-hour week. 18 days leave. Written applications with daytime telephone number to the above address.

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required for the National Advice Centre which advises doctors at interview and by correspondence on training in the U.K. New appointment; will suit methodical person with good typing. Salaries on scale £2,347 to £3,347. 30-hour week. 18 days leave. Written applications with daytime telephone number to the above address.

SECRETARIAL ASSISTANT

Full-time or part-time, required by Doctor who is the senior officer of the Council. Good typing, some audio and willingness to help in small team which services the Council and its committees.

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